

# The Working Woman

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JAN 27 1935  
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STOCKYARD  
STELLA

Serial Love  
Story Begins  
In This Issue

LENIN  
WEBKNECHT  
LUXEMBURG

MARRIAGE  
IN THE  
SOVIET  
UNION

This cover is  
commercial  
photo

January

1935

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# THE Working Woman

MARGARET COWL, Editor

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## The Unemployment Insurance Congress

**T**HE Bill for Unemployment and Social Insurance will be considered by the National Congress taking place in Washington January 5, 6 and 7. This is the only bill which provides real unemployment and social insurance for workers and working farmers to be administered by themselves. It is the only bill which provides maternity benefits to be paid eight weeks prior to and eight weeks after childbirth.

Working class women! Working class mothers! It is to your greatest interest to gain the support of the masses of women for this bill. You can get the support especially of the more than two million unemployed women who in many instances must wrap newspapers into their coats because they have nothing to buy winter clothes with; who are plodding from place to place, because they have no roofs over their heads; who are digging into garbage cans, because they have nothing to eat. They have been denied the right to work, and therefore the right to live. Only by the active mass support of this bill can we expect to force its acceptance by Congress and get at least the miserly sum of \$10 a week to keep us from passing out.

**A**T the Washington Congress, the women delegates who are coming from the trade unions, the women's auxiliaries in the trade unions, the various women's organizations, cultural,

educational and social, will discuss ways and means in a special women's sub-session, of how to involve broader masses of women for the support of this most urgent bill. They will also take up the drafting of a program around which to launch a movement for a Mothers' Bill of Rights. The women's sub-session will suggest whether it is best to draft separate bills for the repeal of the anti-birth

control laws, the establishment of free birth control clinics, the establishment of free day nurseries for working mothers, etc.

For detailed information on how to become part of this movement, write to the Women's Committee of the Sponsoring Committee for the National Congress on Unemployment and Social Insurance, 799 Broadway, New York City.

### A Mother's Letter

Dear Editor:

My experience as a mother must be the experience of many other mothers. I have worked since a child. At twelve years, I worked in a spinning mill, and picking hops. After marriage, I worked like a slave 18 hours a day, up at six in the morning, to bed at midnight, taking care of a store, of my family of children, of the housework. Even as a young woman when I went up to bed, I was like a bent old woman.

I wanted my children to be well dressed at school, to go to college. And they did. But look at the result. These children, educated at college through my sacrifices, are now against my own class, the working class. My lawyer son upholds the reactionary judge who sentences workers to long terms for going to the Welfare Office to ask for more relief. "He did his duty," this son says.

In spite of four years of hardship, days of pennilessness (everything has been lost), in spite of not having money to pay rent at times, of having electricity turned off for five

weeks, in spite of all this, my children cannot see yet. How hard I tried to get work! For three months I went after a laundry job. I felt I would be so happy to get that sixteen dollars a week. When finally I was admitted, I tried so hard to do the work, ironing dresses, aprons, etc., that I almost dropped from hurrying. At 4:30, I was told to come to the office. I asked my neighbor. "What does that mean?"

"How many pieces did you turn out?" she said.

"Fifty-five."

"Oh, that isn't enough. They will pay you off. You've got to turn out one hundred pieces."

"How do you do it? I did all I possibly could."

"Well, you've got to turn out one hundred pieces."

I was sorry for her, then. And if she is still working at the laundry, she does not get sixteen dollars now. Because since the N.R.A., the minimum wage is less.

*Mothers with young children, study this question well. For their own sake, train the children to understand the class struggle, and to know on which side they belong.*

From One Who Has Come to Her Senses.

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## THREE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN BATTLE

SASHA SMALL

**O**N JANUARY 15, 1919, one of the bravest women the world has ever seen, was lynched in Berlin. Those who were directly responsible for this murder were the fore-runners of Hitler's Brown cosacks. Those who put them up to the hideous crime were the leaders of the German Socialist Party who had come into power after the Kaiser was overthrown.

The woman was Rosa Luxemburg, all her life a militant leader of the workers, one of the most courageous fighters against war. The woman about whom Lenin wrote: "Notwithstanding all her mistakes, she was and remains an eagle, and not only will her memory always be highly esteemed by the Communists of all the world, but her biography and the complete collections of her writings will be useful for the instruction of many generations of Communists in all countries."

**M**OST of these writings, and this can be said without any fear of exaggeration, were written in words

of flame, behind steel bars in German jails. Born in 1870, in Poland, at that time crushed beneath the knout of Russian Tsarism, she joined the revolutionary movement at a very early age. In fact, by the time she was 18 she was so outstanding a revolutionist that she had to run away to Switzerland to save her life. From here she went to Germany, only to return to Poland in 1905 to help the revolutionary movement there. In 1906 she was arrested for the first time and thrust into jail. But she managed to escape back to Germany.

In 1910 she joined with Karl Liebknecht in a campaign against rising German militarism. She toured the country making speeches that were as fiery as her writings, rousing the German masses against the danger of the coming war. In 1914 she was arrested again, but from behind the stone walls she wrote her message, calling to the masses to organize the fight against war and exposing the leaders of the Social Democracy who were beginning to show what they

would do when the time came—vote war credits to the militaristic government to carry on the slaughter.

### In the Forefront

**S**HE was finally released from jail in 1918 by the German workers' November revolution. From that moment until her death, she together with Karl Liebknecht were in the forefront of the fight for the proletarian revolution. But the masses were fooled by the honeyed words of the Social Democratic leaders about achieving Socialism peacefully, through "democratic" means and finally were halted in their revolt by machine guns.

After this attack on the most advanced of the German workers, the Social Democratic government announced that "order was restored in Berlin." The last words that Rosa wrote were directed against this slogan. They appeared in the *Rote Fahne*, the official organ of the newly formed German Communist Party of which Rosa was one of the founders: "Order reigns in Berlin! You senseless thugs! Your 'order' is built on sand. The Revolution will rise tomorrow, bristling to the heights, and will, to your terror, sound forth the trumpet call: 'I was, I am, I am to be.'"

A few days later she was arrested together with Karl Liebknecht. As she was leaving the hotel which was the officers' headquarters, she was struck on the head with the butt of a rifle. After being shot and beaten, her body was thrown into a canal.

### One Who Fought War

**K**ARL LIEBKNECHT lost his life on that same day, a life spent in fighting against war, in organizing the workers against imperialist war, raising the slogan of civil war against the real enemies of the workers—the German ruling class.

Few leaders were as fortunate in winning the love of the masses as was Karl Liebknecht. To this day, in the hearts of the militant German workers his spirit lives and they sing the song that begins, "We have pledged it to Karl Liebknecht. . . ."

Karl Liebknecht was among the first to realize the need and to fight for the organization of the youth—winning the young people for the  
(Continued on page 12)

# STOCKYARDS STELLA

By a Group of Workers  
and Jane Benton

DOWN the long grey road between the pens of groaning cattle, Stella hurried to the packing house. She was on the first shift, from seven in the morning until one. Red-nosed from the cold and panting, she hurried upstairs to the dressing room.

The matron was cleaning out huge cockroaches, "dead horses", which were lying in the roach powder. Stella slipped into her blue and white striped uniform and adjusted her white cap so that none of her brown hair showed. "Keep that mop in," the foreman was always saying. And then, after his brutal yelling at the girls he wanted dates with them.

At seven, when the bell rang, Stella ran full speed to her place at the canning table. Speed. Nothing but speed, now, for six hours, with only ten minutes for rest. And the most you can ever earn is \$14 a week. Rows of tables, with forty women at a table. All working so fast you don't know who's sitting beside you. Pans of meat come out to the packers on trays. Certain weights of meat are scaled into the pans and the belt carries them to the packers. You take the pans off and dump meat from the pan into the funnel and then press it into the can. Each hand has its job at every second.

Once in a while Stella caught a quick glimpse of Eddie, moving the tractor full of cans back and forth. Ever since Stella had met Eddie, she'd thought his kind of shining black eyes and rather long nose were perfect. And the wonderful thing was that even from that very first day they'd walked home together she always seemed to feel a thrill when he was with her.

When he came over to the house on summer nights and sat on the back porch with her, his voice was low and he told her things that none of the boys had ever said before—about wanting to get rich so he could get her a car and nice clothes and a home of her own some day, a home far from the Back o' the Yards district, perhaps

within walking distance of Lake Michigan, where one could forget the smell of the yards.

If hard work and honesty would make a man rich, he'd get rich. But Stella told Eddie she liked him a lot, just the way he was. One time they stopped in front of the Ashland Studio, a photograph shop, where there were pictures of brides. His hand slipped into hers. He tried twice to speak, and then finally said it. He said he wondered how Stella would look on the day he married her. Some

day. But right now he had to support his parents and two young brothers still in school. His father had worked for five years on the hog killing floor, but had become paralysed from the high speed-up on this heavy work. (Talk about using up all but the pig's squeal—they use the workers all up too, and even the squeal!)

"Come on, shake 'em up. Come on, let's go to town, girls!" Each hand always doing its own job at top speed. After the can is full, you put

it on the conveyor belt and reach for the next can at the same time. The cans have raw edges and if you're not careful you may cut your hand badly. "Come on, you babies, give them chickens down there some work to do." Each time the foreman talked to a girl he put his fat, sweaty hands on her. He was usually chewing on a piece of meat, and his face was red like the beef. Stella wondered how much longer she could refuse a date with this man without getting fired. There was going to be an awful row between him and Eddie if he didn't leave her alone.

The official government inspector had his back turned now, and the meat from the droust-stricken cattle was coming through. It had a vile smell. It was preserved in soup like mucilage. Due to the high speed-up the girls kept cutting their fingers, and blood fell into the cans. Meat from the floor was swept up and canned. This was for the people on relief. Many had already been made ill from it. If Stella or Eddie lost their jobs they realised that they, too, would be getting this "embalmed" meat at the relief stations.

When it was time to go home the foreman detained Stella and grabbed her around the waist. He held her tightly and told her not to say anything. His ugly face was close to hers. She was surprised that she was not more terrified, because there was no doubt of what he wanted to do.

"Hey you! Leave her alone!" shouted Eddie. His face was red with fury and his clenched fists were aching for a swat at the foreman's jaw, but he restrained himself because he didn't want to lose his job.



**T**RIMMING the hoofs and legs. The men work at high speed. It was reported that in one department several months ago women were used to cut the men's low wages. Women replaced men doing the same work. They were paid 37½ cents an hour, where formerly men were paid 42 cents.

He might just as well have let his fists fly, because the foreman turned on him and said, "Get the hell out of here! I've had enough of you. You're through! ! Get out of here and stay out!"

Stella and Eddie walked over the cobblestone road, past the long rows of cattle-pens, toward the gate at 43rd and Ashland. Neither had the heart to speak. Now that Eddie had lost his job, his family would be on relief. He would be unable to marry.

"Guess I'll try my luck in South St. Paul. I can hop a freighter to South St. Paul, and try my luck in the stockyards there," Eddie said grimly.

"No! Stay here and let's fight this out together, Eddie! Try to get your job back. He had no right to fire you. And besides—if you go away, we may never see each other again."

What can Stella and Eddie do to fight it out together? Read next month's issue of **THE WORKING WOMAN**.

**O**NE worker writes: "There is something about the stockyards, the long rows of prison-like buildings, the screaming of animals, the smells, the long grey cobblestone roads that lead there, where trucks and railroad trains are likely to kill you at any moment, that takes the pep out of you."

"Speed-up is the major grievance of the women workers. Formerly two lines of girls ran 700 hogs an hour, labelling them. Now, 500 hogs run and one girl labels them. There are many accidents. Most girls go to the doctor at least once in three months."

"Negro women are put in the worst jobs. Only Negro workers are in the wet and filthy "gut" department. In the sliced bacon department, one of the cleanest, only white girls are employed."

This is the life of the American worker, some of whom seek relief in patronizing dance halls, drinking and so on. The bosses are glad to see this. It means that the workers will not be sufficiently alert to struggle against their frightful conditions. When the workers do awake and join a militant union, the bosses and their papers call them "Un-American!"

Workers! Write in and tell of your conditions and your struggles to improve them!

# Over the Back Fence

Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Duncan  
Talk Over the Scottsboro Case

"SAY, Mrs. Jackson, do you know what I just heard? They've got hold of Paul Elkins, the colored fellow that works so hard with the Unemployment Councils, and they got him over at the station house. The cops picked him up on Tompkins Street this morning and Joe, that's my son-in-law, says he thinks they're going to try and paste something big on him. You know, that girl's body they found in the swamp last spring, or something. It's just because they want to bust up our Council and I declare it makes me sick."

"For goodness' sake!"

"Paul used to work in the same shop with my husband and he says he never saw a fairer, squarer guy and a good workman, too. Before the both of them got the gate, that was—oh, I'm all out of breath!"

"Come in, come in, Mrs. Duncan and shut the door. You'll freeze us to death—have a cup of tea. I'll put on the kettle and get some cups—well, if that blame cat isn't lying on the clean clothes again! Whoosh! Seat!"

"It's a scandal the way they treat the Negroes in this country, Mrs. Duncan. When you're warmed up, let's get Molly and by that time Dave'll be home and maybe we can stick our noses into this and see it doesn't get any further. I'll just slam the potatoes into the oven now to save time."

"Molly knows about these things, and she was telling me that these Negro boys in Alabama now, well, their case is coming up in Supreme Court again, soon. She says everyone knows that these boys didn't commit no rape—they're innocent as the day is long. One girl said it wasn't so, and that they didn't touch the other one either. Well, that was a couple of years ago, and they were stuck in the jug a year or so before, and there they still sit. Why? Answer me that. Somebody has an axe to grind."

"Molly says that the bosses are afraid that if the boys won and got free it might give all the Negroes the heart to stand up and say they didn't want no extra wage-cut and wanted some decent relief and weathertight houses! She says that the reason the Negro and white people are learning to stick together is just because the bosses are getting a little too darn smart! If those boys aren't guilty they should be let out."—"I know a man, Mrs. Jackson"—"Wait a minute, where are you running to? If my boy was in jail that long and for nothing, would I be sitting here taking it easy? No, I wouldn't, and what difference does it make if a person is black or white? I gave Molly a quarter to send away to help those Scottsboro boys, and I just had to write a letter to the mother of one of them, this Mrs. Patterson. Can you imagine how she feels? Now, I got to finish these windows or they'll never get done."

"The water's boiling. Where do you keep the tea, Mrs. Jackson, and I'll fix it."

"In that blue tin thing."

"Here it is."

"Listen, Mrs. Duncan, the organization that's defending them is a good one. Before we do another thing I'm going to give you their name and address, and maybe you could find a

little something to help along. Give me that pencil. Here: International Labor Defense, 80 East 11th Street, New York City."

"What is it they do, Mrs. Jackson?"

"It's an organization of men and women who got the right idea. You know, how whenever Mr. Selden, over at the mill raises his finger, Judge Green jumps? Well, that sure tells me that a lawyer isn't enough with these crooked courts. This I.L.D. gets the lawyers all right, but they say that isn't enough. They get us together so when we know about these things we can help put a stop to them—to help get innocent people out of jail, like a striker or these Negro boys. My Dave, he said he was going to get one of those petitions signed and take up a collection at Selden's mill to help them poor boys—say, maybe you'd like to come over to a little meeting at Molly Schaeffer's house tonight. They're going to tell us what more to do."

"Oh, I've got an idea! Listen, Mrs. Jackson! Maybe we could get everyone at Schaeffer's to come with us over to the Judge's house after, and tell him he should let Paul Elkins out right away, because he didn't do a single wrong thing. If he or Selden don't like the way he's been helping get decent relief for people, that's too bad. I'd like to see them try and meddle with him. I got my coal and it was due to him and the Council, and they'll touch him over my dead body!"

"Come, Anna Duncan, now don't you get so het up. You got the right idea. Pull up the damper on the fire while I let the cat out."



Drawing by Del

# CLARENCE HATHAWAY

Editor of the Daily Worker, says:

"THE active participation of working class women in the struggle becomes increasingly urgent in view of the advance of fascist reaction, and the acute danger of war. The overcoming of attitudes, on the part of husbands, which prevent such participation becomes a political question of first rate importance."

October 15, 1934

To the Working Woman  
Dear Editor,

I am interested in the working class movement I worked ten years in the two mills in our town Now I would like to join a real working class organization and attend meetings.

But my husband won't let me I've been married five years and have two kids. Whenever I tell my husband (who has just gotten his third wage-cut) that I want to go to these meetings, we always quarrel. It's no use quarreling all the time and I don't know what to do. He has all kinds of interests outside work and goes to all kinds of meetings. But when it comes to me, that's different.

I read your magazine for women and wonder whether you could tell me what I can do. I would surely appreciate it if you would.

Sincerely,

RULES: Winners will be announced in the February WORKING WOMAN. All replies must contain name and address of sender, although if requested, we will not print such information. All replies, which must be in by midnight, January 25, 1935, must be addressed to Contest Editor, WORKING WOMAN, 50 East 13th Street, New York. Neatness, English do not count—only the contents of letter. Winning replies will be printed in the February and March issues. Selected answers will be printed in various publications during this contest.



# THE WORKING WOMAN CONTEST

Ends Midnight, January 25, 1935

It is your last chance to compete with women from all over the country who have flooded the office of THE WORKING WOMAN with replies, telling what they would do, if their husband took the same position as the man described in the letter on this page.

# PRIZES!

(16 of them)

- 1st—Hamper of White Rose Canned Goods
- 2nd—Westinghouse Electric Iron
- 3rd—I. W. O. Initiation and 3 Months Dues
- 4th—Six months sub to Daily Worker
- 5th—Linen Luncheon Set, donated by N. Y. Women's Council

The remaining eleven prizes are, in order: Grace Hutchins' book, "Women Who Work"; Agnes Smedley's book, "China's Red Army Marches"; One year sub to the Freiheit; One year sub to New Masses; One year sub to Fight; A year sub to Labor Defender; A year sub to Negro Liberator; A year sub to Pioneer; A year sub to Working Woman; Five posters from U.S.S.R. showing Soviet life; Three large glossy photos of Lenin, Stalin, Marx.

## Contest Judges

Margaret Cowl, Clarence Hathaway, Williana Burrough, Ella Reeve Bloor  
Rose Wortis

# IT LIVED 14 DAYS

## The Story of the Asturias Commune in Spain

**T**HERE are events in world history, the significance of which lies not only in themselves, but in the larger forces they stir into being. The Asturias Commune, in Spain, which lived for fourteen days, was such an event.

The Asturias Commune was destroyed, but the fascists themselves realize how vividly it lives in the hearts of the Spanish workers. They realize it through the difficulty they are encountering in establishing fascism in Spain, and especially the Asturias.

What is the history of the Commune?

**W**HEN an attempt was made to set up an open fascist dictatorship in Spain, the workers immediately reacted. On October 5th, under the leadership of the Workers' Alliance, a united front of Socialists and Communists, a general strike was called. The strike fast developed into armed struggle. In some parts of Spain, under the leadership of the anarchists, the struggle was sporadic, and carried on not by the mass, but by picked "shock troops". In the Asturias, however, it was carried on by the workers and peasants as a whole.

Men and women were equally heroic in battle. Miners' wives, in the forefront of the battle faced the fascists. The Asturian workers and farmers succeeded in establishing a workers' and peasants' government, the Commune.

**B**UT throughout the rest of Spain there was treachery on the part of the anarchists. They ordered the workers under their control back to work. Other leaders vacillated, had no set objective. They, therefore, could not give support to the Asturias. On October 18th, picked troops of the government, the Spanish Foreign Legion, concentrating on Asturias, destroyed the Commune.

The fascists slaughtered men, women, and children. They lined them up en masse against walls and shot them down. Children's bodies

fell beneath the ruins of buildings, shot to pieces by the machine guns of the fascists. Thousands were arrested.

**M**ASS arrests are still being made. The concentration camps are full. Thousands of families of anti-fascists are left destitute. Children wander about on the streets, helpless.

**T**HE World Womens' Committee Against War and Fascism calls all women to the aid of their Spanish sisters. "Thousands of wives, thousands of mothers have lost their husbands and sons who fell in the fight for the defense of freedom. Thousands of children have been deprived of their fathers. We are calling for help for the courageous anti-fascists of Spain. Come to the aid of those threatened with execution—those incarcerated in the fascists' dungeons—to the aid of your Spanish sisters—to the aid of their children!" They call upon women to set up solidarity committees which will collect funds for the relief of the victims of Spanish fascism, and

which will send resolutions of protest against the terror, and for the release of the anti-fascist prisoners, to the official representatives of the Spanish Government.

**T**HE WORKING WOMAN calls upon all women to support that work! In this country, the International Labor Defense, 80 East 11th Street, New York City, is carrying on the campaign for funds to aid the Spanish anti-fascists and their families, who will otherwise be left to the none too tender mercies of Spanish fascism! Let us show our sympathy and support for their attempt to forge a new world. The Asturias Commune has served warning on the Spanish fascists that the workers and peasants are a strong and relentless force whose fight will continue until fascism has been overthrown, and a workers' and peasants' government is established in Spain. Now they need our help. Let us give new power to the word "solidarity." In the name of international solidarity, send funds to the I.L.D. Have your organization send protests to the Spanish Ambassador!

## My First Vote By Anastasia Supagina A Soviet Girl Worker

I am 18 years of age. My father was a carpenter. I am a shock brigadier in the rubber factory in Moscow, called "Kauchuk."

This is the first time that I shall take part in the Soviet elections. And I will go to these elections with one real achievement in my life. I participated in the work of the best youth brigade which prepared the cover for the stratosphere balloon.

How did I become a worker in such a large plant? I graduated from the seven year term school. In our district of Usachevka, the "Kauchuk" factory takes patronage over this school. For five days we took up the theory of the trade, and for another five days we did practical work in the factory. The skilled workers in

the departments where we did practical work treated us fondly; patiently helped us.

Considering my age, and in view of my desire to increase my skill, the factory helps me with my studies also. Today I leave work two hours before the end of the working day. After resting, I am going to study at the draughtsmen-designers courses.

I now go to the Soviet elections for the first time, with the knowledge that the Workers' Government has given me a trade, that this Workers' Government gives me an education, helps me, that this is my own Workers' Government.

My first participation in the Soviet elections is a new, happy event in my life.

*You're telling me!*

GRACE  
HUTCHINS

**T**HE case of Hinger, widow, and Kohl, housewife, both of Neunkirchen (in the Saar), and Kate Heindell, Neunkirchen, Bismarckstrasse 19.

"These women were assaulted on July 11, 1934, by the National-Socialist, Theo Jacob, who first tried to beat Frau Kohl with his belt, and then struck Frau Hinger on the head with a hard object so that she fell unconscious.

"When Frau Heindel's husband, who had come up meanwhile, tried to prevent him, he drew his revolver and struck Frau Heindel in the eye. Then he escaped. Medical testimony is available in respect to Frau Hinger. The victims of the assault immediately lodged complaints with the authorities and demanded legal proceedings. They have never been advised of any steps taken in consequence."

Cases such as the above are, according to the international Commission of Investigation, occurring almost daily in all parts of the Saar Region.

If you happened to live in that little strip of land lying between Germany and France, known as the Saar, you would be thinking of little else now but the date, January 13, 1935.

This date will go down in European history as the day on which the people of the Saar vote in what is called a plebiscite or choice of the people. They will choose one of three alternatives:

1) To return to Germany; or 2) to go to France; or 3) to stay under the supervision of the League of Nations, the *status quo*.

Now if you remember your school geography you're telling me that the Saarland bears rich coal fields, that it is German by inheritance, that it was taken away from Germany after the world imperialist war and put under the League of Nations for the benefit of France. Both of these imperialist nations, Germany and France, want these rich coal lands for their own.

Two years ago 95 per cent of the people of the Saar would have voted for Germany.

But now Hitler rules in Germany and Germany has become a prison, as the International Commission declares.

### National Socialists Terrorize People

In order to terrorize the people into voting for Hitler on January 1, the so-called German Front has been formed in the Saar. Petty officials of the "neutral" government really represent Hitler and the National Socialists. They use every means in their power, radio, newspapers, movies, churches, to denounce those who dare to oppose Hitler.

Hitler's German Front has threatened the Saarlanders with a massacre to follow the plebiscite. His representatives will know how everyone votes and will take vengeance on those who choose the *status quo*. Nor will a few

British Tommies of the "neutral" police force be able to stop this secret terror. The policing pact agreed to by France and Germany will not protect the people from Hitler's power.

Voting lists have been falsified in order to roll up a pro-Hitler vote. Names of persons dead for 10 years and of others who have never been residents of the Saar are included in Hitler's voting lists. The League of Nations says it is too late to change them.



Fritz Thyssen, fascist coal baron, is the boss behind Hitler, the puppet

Drawing by Gropper

But a mighty force has been developing in the Saar region to protect the people from the so-called German Front. It is known as the *Freiheits Front* and it includes Social Democrats, Communists, great masses of Catholics and the Christian trade unions. It has as its purpose "to preserve the *status quo* until such time as the Saar population itself demands a new plebiscite," or until Hitler is overthrown in Germany.

### Support the Freiheits Front

In support of this *Freiheits Front*, committees have been formed in every country to collect food and clothing for the relief of Hitler's victims in the Saar. Hungry refugees from Germany are there in that little region but they are not eligible for Nazi "relief." They are refused all help, which is given only to supporters of Hitler's rule. These victims of Nazi terror cannot even buy food or clothing in the shops that are under Hitler's control.

Come on then, and let's imagine we have seen them with our own eyes—hungry people without the warm clothing they need for winter, without heat in their rooms. From the United States we can send food—thousands of cans—and clothes, and money. Send today to the National Committee to Aid the Victims of German Fascism, 168 West 23rd Street, New York City.

# THE FIGHT FOR BREAD

United Councils of Working Class Women Lead It

THE high cost of living, the conditions of our children, the immediate danger of war, are the most important topics of discussion for us today. After one and a half years of Roosevelt's New Deal, with all its promises, the conditions of the working class have not improved.

## Housewives and the H.C.L.

FROM the year 1933 to 1934, prices of immediate necessities, such as bread, milk, meat, canned goods, etc., have risen 28 per cent.

The income of the average worker's family today cannot meet this rise in food commodities. Over 14 million people in New York City alone have been taken off relief on the false pretense that they had jobs.

In New York State alone, 30,000 men and women do home work. They make articles with the N.R.A. label for as low as from two to ten cents per hour, working twelve and fifteen hours a day.

Living under such conditions, the life of the working class housewife is becoming unbearable.

## Conditions of Negro Women

IN NEW York City a large percentage of the population are Negroes. Negro working women

struggle much more than the white women to make ends meet. In old and unsanitary apartments, Negro families are compelled by white landlords to pay high rents. Families are compelled to double up because of that, and at times three and four families live in one small apartment.

In the factory, the Negro woman cannot get a job as easily as the white woman. On the domestic jobs, Negro women get low wages for long hours of heavy work. At the Home Relief Bureau they are discriminated against.

Negro women together with white women should organize, and united, fight for better conditions.

## School Children

NOT very long ago, almost every mother in New York whose child goes to school, received a card from the government agencies to sign—that her child would drink five glasses of milk a day. To boost the sale of milk, the milk trusts have allotted \$500,000 for the campaign "Drink More Milk." A recent report in the World Telegram stated that this campaign was a failure, that the consumption of milk has not increased.

At present, an intensive campaign is being waged by us to get milk at eight cents per quart and free milk stations for the unemployed, better conditions for our children in the schools, and to organize ourselves against a bosses' war.

In the schools, our children are compelled to sit in overcrowded class-

rooms, due to the stretch-out system. (One teacher for two classes.) Such overcrowding results first, in the inability of the teacher to pay proper attention to so many children, and second, in the carrying and spreading of disease from one child to another.

## Organize to Fight Misery

THE United Council of Working Class Women is the organization that has the program and the experience in mobilizing women to fight the hardships forced upon them. This organization has succeeded in the past through the organized efforts of Negro and White women in gaining some concessions for the working woman and for workers' wives. Reductions on bread, meat, and rent were won through real struggles.

To rally women on the above issues we find the following methods most effective: Special leaflets to be distributed from house to house; to visit women's organizations and to form neighborhood committees.

These committees to arrange for delegations and demonstrations to be staged at markets, wholesale houses, milk companies, also homes of aldermen and city authorities. If carried on systematically, we can succeed in forcing concessions for working class families.

We call upon all working women, native and foreign born, Negro and white, regardless of their political affiliation or religious beliefs, to come together and discuss their problems and so that we can organize ourselves to fight misery and starvation.

# In Factory and Office

A Department in Which Mill, Factory, Office and Shop Workers Will Record Their Conditions and Struggles

## Estimating Strike Gains

By a Dye Worker

"THERE shall be equal pay for equal work regardless of age or sex. This interpretation to mean that if any female worker is assigned to work now done by a male worker, she shall receive the same rate of pay as the male worker for that work."

This is a clause in the new agreement just won in the recent strike of dye workers in Paterson and the area.

Previous to this strike, women workers were making 40 cents an hour and men 48 cents an hour, for the same kind of work. Because of the splendid work done by the rank and file committees in the United Textile Workers' Union, especially during the strike, this new clause giving equal pay was written into the new agreement.

This clause is a victory for all workers in the dye industry in Paterson. However, there are some shortcomings to be noted which occurred during the strike which could have serious results now, if we do not immediately give this attention.

During this recent strike, women were few in number on the picket lines. Fewer attended membership meetings. Women were heard to say: "I'm tired hanging around doing nothing." This was because there was no special effort made on the part of the shop chairmen and delegates to mobilize and involve the women in any sort of strike activity. In fact, at one meeting it was mentioned that it wasn't so necessary for women to be on the picket lines; that if they came out once or twice a week, that would be doing fine. Nothing is known about whether the rank and file committees did anything about this.

WHAT shall we do about this situation? The shop chairmen and delegates should bring up on the floor of the meeting of the trade union the proposal that special meetings of women workers be called under the auspices of the trade union.

The National Rank and File Committee of the American Federation of Labor should start a campaign for equal pay for equal work for women in all industries where this is a problem. After this demand of equal pay for equal work is won, the bosses will try to overcome it. Therefore it is necessary from the very beginning to activate the women workers to force the agreement in the mills. They should be activated from the very beginning of the strike to fight for the demand and then to keep on the watch that it is put into practice. It does not mean that after the strike is over, the fight for equal pay for equal work is over even where this demand is won.

## Domestic Workers Investigate Codes

Dear Editor:

Twenty domestic workers, among them both Negro men and women, white workers of different nationalities, and Japanese workers, came together to discuss a report of the United States Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, at the request of **The Working Woman**, on work standards for household employment.

According to the report, the miserable conditions in the industry, low wages, irregular hours, bad living conditions which face most of the 1,400,000 women "servants" results from the fact that the workers are dependent on individual employers. Legislation gives them little protection, since the hour laws do not apply to them in any state, the minimum wage law in only one state, and accident compensation laws in only two states. The report ascribes the tremendous lowering of wages to the increase in the numbers of inexperienced women, forced out of other fields of employment, who accept the miserable conditions for domestic work. It further states that only the agencies have made an effort to

estimate fair wages and reasonable hours.

## Object to Labor Department Report

To this part of the report, there was vigorous objection from all the assembled workers. As one said, "The girls aren't to blame. How about these bridge parties where the 'madams' discuss us? If one woman pays a little more than the others, they tell her she is a fool. I know. I always have trouble with my employer after a party."

The workers were particularly disgusted with the statement that the agencies helped to raise wages. Their experience was that agencies almost never asked higher wages from the employers. One woman said that the State Agency in Harlem tried to send her out for 25 cents an hour.

The group of workers proposed to demand unemployment insurance for all workers, and especially for those under sixteen years of age, to take them out of the industry.

The Employer-Employee Relationship Committee has drawn up a code, proposing a minimum wage, a maximum work week of 54 hours for sleep-in work, 48 hours for sleep out, payment for overtime, one whole day or two half days off, one week's vacation with pay after a year's service, private room with access to a modern bathroom, accident compensation to be carried by the employer, an employment contract, specifying the working agreement made.

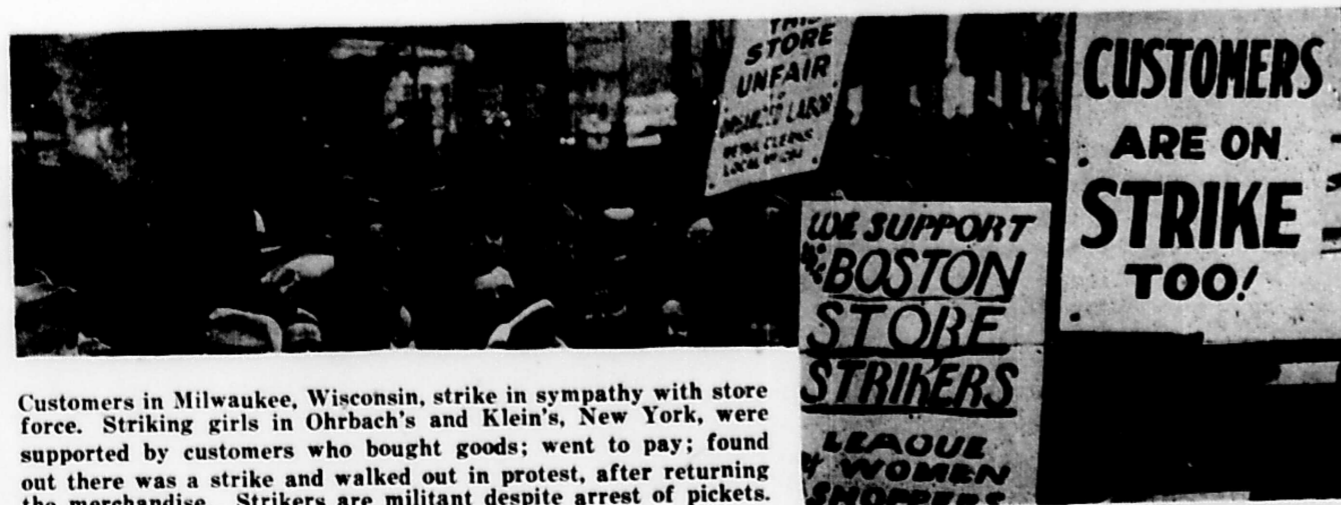
## Workers Demand 50 Cents an Hour

The workers approved this with the following changes—a 48-hour week for all workers, and two weeks' vacation. They pointed out that the Labor Department report omitted to mention the wage. The workers agreed that fifty cents an hour and twenty dollars a week were fair minimum wages.

Some agencies stated that legal regulation would be necessary to enforce such standards.

"Yes," a worker said, "but even if they did have laws, we workers would have to fight to get them enforced. There's no way out for us if we don't want to break our backs for nothing, but to organize, and the sooner we get wise to it the better!"

A Group of Domestic Workers.



Customers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, strike in sympathy with store force. Striking girls in Ohrbach's and Klein's, New York, were supported by customers who bought goods; went to pay; found out there was a strike and walked out in protest, after returning the merchandise. Strikers are militant despite arrest of pickets.

## Three Who Gave Their Lives in Battle

(Continued from page 3)

cause of the working class. "He who has the youth has the army," he said and taught. And he worked fearlessly, tirelessly to win the youth for the struggle against war even in the trenches. When the vote was taken on the floor of the Reichstag on the question of voting funds to carry on the war, all the Social Democrats voted with the imperialist war mongers, but into the teeth of these betrayers and their masters Karl Liebknecht raised his lone but powerful voice in one word, "NO." After the police had beaten him and slugged him and shot him in the back, the papers proclaimed, news now famous throughout Nazi Germany, "Karl Liebknecht shot while trying to escape."

THE third leader, and the greatest of them all, who lost his life in the month of January, 1924, is

Lenin. Lenin, the leader of the triumphant Russian revolution, Lenin the teacher of revolutionary workers and farmers the world over.

### Lenin—The Greatest

It is difficult to write about Lenin. There is so much to say. There are so many things to tell about his life and his work and his teachings. How he raised the slogan, "Land, Peace and Bread," how he said the Russian peasants had voted with their feet to end the war, how he led the Bolshevik Party through the first difficult years of revolution in the Soviet Union, triumphant despite the efforts of counter-revolutionary forces from within the country and from every corner of the globe.

Three great leaders lost their lives in the class struggle, in the fight to build a better world. Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht did not live to see the Hitler fascist terror in Germany. Lenin did not live to see the successful completion of the

first Five Year Plan and the triumphant building of socialism in the Soviet Union. But all of us can see the sharp contrast between those two countries today—what fascism has to offer us and what a government of workers and farmers has to give.

That fascism breeds war needs no long proofs or explanations—the militarization of the German people; of the Italian children; the bayonets bristling in all the fascist countries are a clear warning of what is to come—unless all of us, according to our ability continues the work of Lenin, Liebknecht and Luxemburg, forcing a powerful united front against fascism, hunger and war, helping to do whatever we can.

The Communist Party in the United States, just as all over the world, is making every effort to achieve unity. Let us all support it in this work, join its fighting ranks, fill the gaps left by the fallen comrades. "Tis the final conflict—let each stand in his place—"

## How to Organize

IMAGINE that a strike is taking place in a factory in which women workers are in the minority—for instance a fairly large factory where there are 100 to 200 women workers. What is to be done?

### First Steps

Upon arrival you must not rush into preparing a mass meeting. First of all you must meet and talk to the women workers, individually and in groups. Maybe they will not seek you out. You may have to approach them. In this way, you will get a detailed knowledge of their situation. Get in touch with the rank and file committees leading the strike. Ask them for help in organizing a mass meeting and for guidance on what to say to the workers.

### Meeting Preparations

THE meeting should be prepared and planned carefully. The speech must be carefully thought out. The

practical proposals must be carefully considered and settled in advance as to their nature. Maybe you will attract 50 to 75 workers. This is not at all bad for the first meeting.

After the speech a lively exchange of opinions should be encouraged. This makes for enthusiasm and helps to bring more workers to the next meeting. This gives the speaker definite ideas for good concluding remarks. The practical proposals are then acted on.

A very important thing for the speaker to say is: "I have not come here to make speeches but to help you all to organize better to win your demands. You must appoint from among yourselves the most active, determined and the most militant women workers, who will work with me as your representatives. In a few days we shall meet again and then we shall report on the work we have done, such as: agitation among strike-breakers, work among the

wavering strikers, distribution of leaflets and other literature."

### Plenty to Do in Strikes

DURING a strike there is plenty of work to do. It is not hard to find practical slogans and tasks. A decision is made at the first meeting to call the next meeting within the next few days. Five or six representatives are elected at the first meeting and then it is ended. Tasks are given to these five or six. Thus, we have elected working women delegates.

### Concrete Work

How to begin? First, take their names and addresses so that if one of them does not turn up it will be possible to send for her. We start with questions. We must explain to each one separately, everything she does not understand. This is not difficult when there are only a few.

Three things are necessary for the first meeting with the delegates: (1) Get more acquainted with them; (2) Talk with them about the distribution of work; (3) The work itself should be distributed down to the smallest de-

(Continued on page 15)

# Slave Market *Up-To-Date*

BY A HOLLYWOOD  
EXTRA GIRL



### Girls Like Me

kids? Hell! How do we know what becomes of them, or how they manage to survive? That's their business, if they come here and don't make good!

Now, what means this 'making good' in Hollywood? Say, "making good" as one dancer in a chorus of, perhaps, fifty?

I came to Hollywood from the West, a native daughter of California. For eight years I studied dancing. All my life, it seems, I have been practicing one or another step of some routine.

My mother, like so many other women, held the idea that a dancer's life was glamorous, different. She, like so many struggling mothers, went without, to give me a chance, because she did not want me to go

### CHANGING THE TITLE OF THE WORKING WOMAN

So far the majority of opinion on this question is that the title of THE WORKING WOMAN should not be changed. We ask for further ideas from others.

Editor.

into a factory or an office. My poor mother saw only the smile on the dancer's face as she whirls about on her toes, that mechanical smile that hides so many real emotions! She thought it an honor to have me in Hollywood, even if she could only point out her "successful" daughter to the neighbors, in one routine of one picture once a year. My mother meant well. She was not of the present generation, and she knew nothing of Hollywood life.

The first year I was in Hollywood, I worked as regularly as I could. I happened to have had a gentleman of influence interested in my career, and I was able to stall off his strictly dishonorable intentions long enough to get a small reputation as a dependable chorine.

It did not take me long to get wise to this racket known as Hollywood. I knew that I had nothing to sell but my looks, and I knew that youth and beauty is fleeting. I knew only too well, at the end of my first few months here, that Hollywood takes the best out of you in looks, ideals and physical strength, giving you in return seven dollars and fifty cents per working day, as well as the opportunity to stand humbly by, listening to a dance director call you every filthy name invented by modern language, while an assistant director snoops about the lot, seeking to interest visiting firemen and Rotarians in your well-advertised physical charms.

### Bosses on the Make

The life of the working woman is pretty rotten everywhere in America. In the office, the boss is on the make. In the factory, the superintendent spots each good-looking girl as a possible conquest. But, Hollywood is colossal in everything. The number of men floating about here, each convinced that each chorus girl's body was made to be his particular plaything, is also colossal.

Do you think Hollywood is Paradise? You will find out the facts and not the fiction which has been brayed at American workers for so long. Another chapter will appear in an early issue.

# MARRIAGE In the Soviet Union

NAN ALLEN

WHAT has happened to that old myth that used to be circulated around by the enemies of the Soviet Union? It has given up the ghost, and none except the most persistent of Soviet slanderers resurrect it for special anti-Soviet use, from time to time.

It has a successor, however. Bourgeois writers repeat time and again, in order to make enemies for the Soviet Union, "The Soviet Union destroys the family!" And many workers are anxious for an answer to the question raised by them.

Has the Soviet Union destroyed the family?

A SOVIET writer, O. Saslavsky, emphatically says, in answer to this question, "No! On the contrary, the Soviet Union creates for the first time the possibility of a real family among the toiling masses!"

He says, in an article appearing in International Press Correspondence, No. 59 (1934), "The marriage based on the enslavement of women, the exploitation of children, on misery and bitter tears, has indeed been destroyed by the proletarian October Revolution! The family that has disappeared is the old pre-revolutionary patriarchal peas-

ant family, the family in which the wife was slave, the husband and father absolute master, and where 'Love your wife as your soul, and shake her like a year tree' was a maxim.

"There is no 'marriage problem' in the Soviet Union," Saslavsky continues. "In the Soviet Union, a child is not a 'hungry mouth,' but a desired member of society. The number of weddings is incomparably higher than in pre-revolutionary Russia. No unemployment, no private profits—a girl does not need marry the first man who presents himself, whether she loves him or not, merely in order not to be-

come an 'old maid,' a burden on her parents. Now she can choose a husband after her own heart, as the young men choose their wives.

RELATIONS between the various members of the family are changed. Neither man nor wife, neither children nor old people are threatened by unemployment. Nobody is economically dependent on anyone else. The wife does not need to fear her husband, or to be obedient to him merely because he is her husband. The children are not forced to show blind obedience towards their parents. The mother need not fear the father of her children will desert her, leaving her helpless. Neither priests nor police poke their noses into family affairs.

AND on any sunny day spent in a park in the Soviet Union, we can see the Soviet family—the husband with the child on his arm, the wife walking by his side. In the Soviet Union, the family not only exists, it flourishes and thrives." So Saslavsky ends his characterization of the Soviet family.

THIS, then, is marriage and the family in the Soviet Union. We must destroy the slander that the Soviet Union wipes out the family. Armed with knowledge of the status of the family in the Soviet Union, we must make clear to all working women what happiness might be hers, what beauty, intelligence, and security she might find in her family life, should she fight for and obtain a government such as exists in the Soviet Union.

## ARMOUR GIRLS ASK SUPPORT

Dear Comrades:

Will you please help us keep up our paper, "The Armour Young Worker"? It is the shop paper you will read about in the second installment of "Stockyard Stella." It will be interesting for you to read because it tells about our conditions here and gives you an idea of what our life is like.

Subscriptions may be sent to the Armour Young Worker, care of the Young Communist League, 101 S. Wells St., Chicago, Ill., Room 705.

The Working Woman Club.

Ed. Note: The comrades did not state the subscription price in their letter to us. Inquiries should be directed to the above address.

## International Women's Day - March 8th

IT is urgent that you answer this call! The Working Woman needs a reserve fund of \$200 if the price is to remain at 50 cents a year and 5 cents a copy. Send in your greetings to support the only working women's magazine in English in the United States.

WORKERS—organizations and individuals—send in your greetings now! For contributions of one dollar and over your name will be printed, but even a small amount is useful. Several women may want to pool their contribution and send it in together. Act quickly! Closing date for the printing of your names is February 20.

### Greeting to The Working Woman!

Name	Address	City	State	Amount
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A warm attractive scarf may be made, our fashion artist asserts, and tells us that bright orange with a black dress would look well. The picture at right tells all.

I HOPE you are all the kind who feel dressed up when dressed from the neck up. When I saw this scarf on one of those wooden manikins in one of the big department stores, I knew I was off again.

The collar in the sketch is charming and apple pie simple to make. It has a smart ease that those who can afford it go for. And how I was wide-eyed when the scarf came off. Simply a big circle (about 26 inches in diameter) with a hole in the middle (about 12½ inches in diameter), bound with bias tape or piquoted around the edges. Slip it over your head, twist in front and slip it over your head again. Pull it here and pat it there and you're ready for anything, say I.

Yes, yes—it was made of velvet. Would be equally good in wool for warmth or heavy silk for swelfth. And why not crisp white for a collar on a dress?

Gwen Barde.



## How To Organize

(Continued from page 12)

tail. We must be very patient, because the working woman will not be successful in the work in her first attempt in some cases, especially when doing it alone. In a few days the delegates should gather and speak of what has been done and discuss the difficulties and so on.

### Constant Guidance Necessary

THE strike is going on and the tempo of the work must also be strike tempo. The meetings should be held every day even if they are very short ones. The broader mass meetings should be at least once a week. The elected delegates should help in preparing the mass meetings. The leader goes over even their speeches with them, so as to help them bring out the necessary points. At the next large meeting additional women delegates are elected.

### When the Strike Ends

THE working women's delegate meetings continue to function even after the strike is over. It is necessary to get in touch with the mass of women strikers after the strike to expose misleaders, if the strike is lost because of sell-out. It

is immediately after the strike that the question is decided as to which side has succeeded in strengthening its class position, which is the decisive question in the class struggle. The women delegates will help in the organization of this mass meeting.

### Train Them for Leadership

AFTER the strike, perhaps not all the delegates will continue working. The majority will stay if the work has been done well during the strike. They are very important

because they have contact with the women in the factory. The work of the delegates should be arranged so as to fit in with the actual conditions in the factories they work in. For that, it is necessary for the leader to make herself familiar with their conditions. This can be done by talking with the women delegates.

These delegate meetings can be organized at any time, and not only in a strike situation. Write the *Working Woman* for more information about this work.

## HOUSEHOLD CORNER

DOROTHY DYER

### Vegetable-Beef Soup

A knuckle of beef with about two pounds of meat on it.  
Salt, pepper and flour.  
1 tbsp. fat.  
2 qts. cold water.  
1 bay leaf.  
4 small onions.  
1 cup diced carrots.  
4 small potatoes, diced.

Cut half the meat into inch cubes, dredge with flour, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and brown in a very hot frying pan in which the fat has been

melted. Put this browned meat into kettle with the rest of the meat and the bone and add the water. Add a small bay leaf and simmer for an hour after the water has come to a boil. Add the onions and carrots. Simmer for half an hour longer, add potatoes and continue cooking until meat and vegetables are tender, add more water during cooking if necessary. Tomatoes and small amounts of left-over cooked vegetables may be put into the soup; they should be added not more than half an hour before serving.



# New Working Woman LIBRARY

Some of the following pamphlets are already on sale. Those marked with this sign (\*) will be ready by February 15th. Place orders at once.

MOTHER BLOOR'S LIFE	Ann Barton	5c*	AMERICAN WOMEN IN PRESENT DAY STRUGGLES	Sasha Small	2c*
LENIN ON THE WOMAN QUESTION	Clara Zetkin	5c	NEGRO WOMEN IN ACTION	Eugene Gordon	2c*
WOMEN UNDER HITLER FASCISM		3c	MANIFESTO AND CHARTER OF DEMANDS OF PARIS WOMEN'S CONGRESS AGAINST WAR AND FASCISM		2c
WOMEN IN THE SOVIET UNION	Nurima	15c	THE JOBLESS WOMAN	Grace Hutchins	2c*
WOMEN WHO WORK	Grace Hutchins	5c			
WOMEN AND EQUALITY	Margaret Conl	2c*			

Orders must be placed *now* with the following Workers' Bookstores so that they may be prepared to have pamphlets in time for March 8 meetings and demonstrations.

## Bookstores

New York	50 East 13th Street
Bronx	699 Prospect Avenue
Brooklyn	369 Sutter Avenue
Boston	216 Broadway
Philadelphia	46 N. 8th Street, 2nd Floor
West Philadelphia	4023 Girard Avenue
Baltimore	509 N. Eutaw Street
Washington, D. C.	513 F Street, N.W.
Pittsburgh	1638 Fifth Avenue
Cleveland	1522 Prospect Avenue
Detroit	1981 Grand River Avenue
Grand Rapids	336 Bond Avenue
Chicago	505 S. State Street
	4305 S. Park Avenue
Milwaukee	312 West State Street
Seattle	Room 202 Collins Building
Tacoma	1315 Tacoma Avenue
San Francisco	37 Grove Street
Los Angeles	224 South Spring Street

# 1500 NEW Subscriptions!

A Drive is starting for 1,500 new, yearly subscriptions for the Working Woman, beginning Jan. 1 and ending April 1. Below there is a subscription blank. Additional ones will be mailed on request.

## Prizes GET BUSY AND WIN

For the highest number of new, yearly subscriptions (minimum number is 200) you can win your choice of either of the two Grand Prizes!

**LENIN**—Complete Set of Works, or Cast aluminum cooking pots, two of them, guaranteed for long wear.

**Commission:** For ten new, yearly subscriptions you send in, your own will be entered or renewed free!

*Anyone wishing to credit new subscriptions to an individual who is working for a Grand Prize may do so. We are glad to have renewals and urge you to send them in, but they do not count toward the prizes.*

**BOOST THE CIRCULATION!  
SUPPORT YOUR MAGAZINE!**

**P**LEASE enter my subscription to the Working Woman at once.

(Check one below)

Name ..... 2 Years \$1 .....

Address ..... 1 Year 50c .....

City ..... 6 months 30c .....

State ..... Canada & Foreign 75c year .....