

# THE WORKING WOMAN

The Voice of Women Workers

Official Organ of the National Woman's Department  
Communist Party of the U.S.A.

DEMAND

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

FIGHT

Against Racial Discrimination  
Against Imperialist Wars  
For the Defense of the Soviet Union  
For a Workers' and Farmers' Government

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## ELLA MAY SENT A LETTER TO THE WORKING WOMAN

That Ella May Wiggins followed an unflinching course of sacrifice and struggle for the upbuilding up of the National Textile Workers Union in the South and never lost an opportunity to use every available means to plead for support of the Southern strikers, was revealed in an unexpected way this week by the finding of a bit of workers correspondence, dated August 23, addressed to the "Editor of the Working Woman," and signed "A STRIKER, ELLA MAY."

To the deep regret of the editor, this is the first issue of the Working Woman to be printed since June. Since Ella May wrote the brief story of her life, first, as mother of a mountaineer's family of five, and later as an impassioned pleader in action and in writings for the organization of the textile mill "hands" against the bosses' exploitation—her heroic part in the class struggle was cut short by a company gunman in the mob of mill hirelings who shot into a truckload of strikers going to a protest meeting in Gastonia, N. C., to demonstrate their allegiance to the imprisoned strikers.

When Ella May wrote her worker-correspondence, she didn't know that seven of these strikers were to be sentenced to a living death in prison for defending the rights of workers to build a union—the same cause for which she herself was to lose her life. But she knew at least this: that it was a life-and-death battle between workers and mill-bosses,—and that the burning need of the hour was for labor solidarity. So she wrote her message, "And I hope whoever reads this story will lend us a helping hand in our struggle."

### Ella May's Letter

Following is Ella May's story, written from Bessemer City, N. C., August 23, with no alterations whatsoever by the editor:

"I have been working in the mills eight years. I was raised in the mountains and in 1921 they come out to the mountains getting hands to work in the Loray mill in Gastonia, and my husband give what we had away, and come there to live. They promised \$7.70 a week to learn and a raise when we learned our jobs.

**THIS IS HOW THEY KEPT THEIR PROMISE:** When I could run four slides of spinning, they cut me down to five dollars a week! Then when they had got all the new hands learned up, they had more help than they could work, so they would send us out to rest and that way we only got in two or three days a week. I had to buy furniture on time and they took it from me, and I had to go somewhere else.

I am now left a widow with five children, and I have tried with all my might to make a living for them. The wages I got in the mill at the most is from six dollars to nine dollars a week. I can't live on that. I have to keep my children out of school because I don't make enough to keep them in bread and have no way in the world to clothe them at the wage I make.

In January, my children was all down in bed with the influenza and I was working at night. I asked my boss to give me day work so I could be with my children at night. His reply was for me to get some one to stay with them. I asked him how I could pay some one to take care of my children when I was only making seven dollars a week and having to pay two dollars a week for my house rent.

I hope whoever reads my story will understand I have always worked for my liv-

## THEY FLEW THE RED FLAG IN CALIFORNIA



Six Communist women leaders of the California working class, who defied the terror of the capitalists and their state by flying the Red Flag over a Pioneer's Camp. In the top row, left to right, are Sara Cutler, Bella Mintz, and Esther Carpiloff. In the lower row, left to right are Yetta Stromberg, Emma Schneidermann, and Jennie Wolfson. All received sentences of from 6 months to 5 years, except Yetta Stromberg, who got from one year to 10 years, and Sara Cutler who was dismissed.

## AUSTRALIAN GIRL SHOE WORKERS STRIKE

MELBOURNE, Australia—A shoe factory here employs 150 girls, which the labor fakers of the Australian Trade Union Council have never attempted to organize. But these unorganized girl workers are really more radical in their simple way than a lot of organized but dumbbell men who have been told they can't do this or that so long that they more or less believe it.

These girls, some of them, like to chew gum. When the boss told them they mustn't chew gum, they protested. The boss got hard-boiled and insisted, so these girls walked out on strike. "No gum no shoes!" Of course the girls have other things they need, like higher wages, and when they find that it's easy to win a gum strike, they may try a wage strike.

## TWO WOMEN MEMBERS OF GERMAN REICHSTAG JOIN COMMUNISTS

Two women members of the German Reichstag, who were elected by the workers following the socialist party, have quit the socialists and joined the Communist Party. This occurred just before the Berlin municipal elections of November 17, in which the Communist Party ticket gave a considerable allotment of candidacies to factory working women, while the socialist party had no factory working women as candidates and only a small number of bourgeois women. The two women Reichstag members now with the Communists are Marie Reese and Marie Roepert.

## FINNISH WOMEN PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

HELSINGFORS, Finland.—Ten women prisoners in the woman's prison here began a hunger strike in sympathy with the men who have gone on a hunger strike. All are political prisoners.

Finnish workers have declared a general strike of 12 hours in sympathy with the prisoners on hunger strike.

ing and always will, but we must have pay for our work so we can feed and clothe our children.

**AND I HOPE WHOEVER READS THIS STORY WILL LEND US A HELPING HAND IN OUR STRUGGLE. THERE ARE MANY MORE IN JUST AS BAD CONDITION AS I AM IN. I AM ALWAYS IN HOPES CONDITIONS WILL NOT ALWAYS BE SO BAD IN THE SOUTH, ESPECIALLY AFTER WE BUILD UP OUR UNION, AND WE NEED THE HELP OF EVERYONE THAT CAN HELP US.**

## WOMEN MUST BE ORGANIZED FOR CLASS STRUGGLE

Carry Out Decisions of Cleveland Convention

The Cleveland Convention of the T. U. U. L. decided that one of the most important tasks confronting us in the building of a strong and powerful labor movement in this country is the organization of the mass of the working women.

The rationalization of industry, the simplification of machinery is bringing in an ever larger number of women workers not only into the light industries but the heavy industries as well. Recent statistics show that there are today eight and one-half million women workers employed in industry who are subjected to the most fierce speed-up system and are used by the bosses as a tool to undermine the wages of the male workers.

In accordance with the decision of the convention, a National Women's Department has been organized. Similar departments will be established amongst women in the various local leagues, unions, and national T. U. U. L. committees. The plan for the organization of these committees and their functions as worked out by the National Women's Committee is as follows:

1. Every district and local T. U. U. L., as well as every trade and national committee must immediately organize a women's committee, consisting of active women as well as men workers, to be under the supervision of a responsible comrade.

2. These women's committees to be represented on the various sub-committees of the union and particularly on the Organ-

(Continued on page 3)

### DO YOU KNOW THAT—

In the last world war 10,000,000 workers gave their lives to pile up profits for Rockefeller and Morgan.

The last world war was fought under the fake slogan of "War to End War."

Today the United States is spending \$741,000,000 on armaments—more than any other country.

The United States has spent over \$626,000,000 a year on armaments for the past two years.

Great Britain and France each spend over \$560,000,000 a year in war preparations.

The cost of war preparations by five leading capitalist countries totals over \$2,290,000,000 a year.

The capitalist nations are actively preparing to attack Soviet Russia.

They have followed a policy of surrounding and isolating the Soviet Union by treaties among themselves.

## HARLEM TENANTS LEAGUE CALLS FOR ORGNIZATION

The Appellate Term of the Supreme Court scrapped the city's emergency rent laws in a ruling handed down, November 19, just fourteen days after the election. The matter had been in the hands of the courts for several months, and weeks ago the militant leaders of the Harlem Tenants League predicted before membership meetings of the organization at the Public Library, 105 West 135 Street, that the capitalist courts were soft-pedaling on the life and death question of rents and merely waiting for the election to be over to scrap the emergency rent laws.

Negro Harlem and the East Side were panic-stricken at the news of the decision. Scores of Negro tenants rushed to the Seventh District Municipal Court at 320 West 135 Street to see whether they had any legal chance in the capitalist courts against the extortions of the landlord-capitalist class. They were told to go home and pay whatever rent the landlords demanded.

The capitalist courts are preparing their machinery to help the landlords in speeding up evictions of working-class tenants. There are already 2,000 dispossession cases a month, and the number is expected to jump to 4,500 and more. The emergency laws affected flats renting at \$15 or less. The revoking of these rent laws strikes at the very poorest and most oppressed of the working class, the Negro workers who are forced to live in congested, unsanitary tenements and suffer from an appalling high death rate, Negro babies, for instance, dying twice as fast as white babies.

"Immediate struggle against the raising of rents will be started by the Harlem Tenants League," Richard B. Moore, president of the League, stated yesterday.

"The masses of the tenants, particularly the bitterly exploited Negro workers, are now completely at the mercy of the rent-gouging landlords, who have been awaiting this decision. At this time when wages are constantly being cut and unemployment

(Continued on page 3)

## BERMUDA WOMEN DENIED VOTE

HAMILTON, Bermuda (By Mail)—The capitalist government of Bermuda has again denied women the right to vote. The bill introduced in the Colonial House of Assembly asked that women owning property in Bermuda be granted the right to vote at parish vestry elections, but even this small favor was frowned upon by the assembly.

When the bill was introduced, the capitalist legislators, representing business interests, received it with shouts of laughter. A prominent member of the House remarked, "Bermuda women need not expect to get the right to vote as long as the present House of Assembly exists."

Not until working women of Bermuda organize to demand the vote, not for property women, but for workers, not until the present capitalist government of Bermuda is overthrown will real suffrage be secured.

## WOMEN WORKERS CAN'T LIVE ON PAY

While thousands of women workers in New York City earn only \$10-\$15 a week a bourgeois reformist organization announces that a girl in New York City can't possibly support herself on less than \$22 a week.

A room renting at \$6 a week is hard to find, but a girl earning even \$20 a week can't pay more. What about the girls who earn only \$11-\$12 a week? The welfare workers do not say.

# CLEVELAND—A MASS STORY

By MYRA PAGE

This is the story of the six hundred and ninety delegates who made labor history at the Trade Union Unity League Congress, which met in Cleveland on August 31-September 2, 1929. It is their story, jotted down as they told of it, of their working class experience which had forced them and their fellow workers into struggle against the bosses, and roused them to send their representatives here to organize a revolutionary trade union center in the United States.

This mass story should be written down, as far as possible, so that American workers who could not attend will know how genuine an outgrowth of themselves their new union center is, and how it marks the beginning of a new era for American working class. As one high point in labor's epic of struggle from slavery to freedom, Cleveland is a story without beginning or end. Its roots run far into the past, and its triumphant climax remains for us to write in the years which lie ahead.

I am giving the story as it came to me, in fragments from workers' lives and flashes on to labor scenes which, when brought together, form a massive, stirring whole.

The first session of the convention I sat between a miner's wife from Superior, Pennsylvania, and a young Negro auto worker, from Detroit. She was a dark little woman with a baby in her lap which alternately threw itself bodily to and fro, up and forward, gurgling at the ceiling, and then, tiring of this game, whimpered and fumbled for its mother's breast or pulled her hair. The woman bounced and whispered to it, and gave it the breast, meanwhile attempting to take notes and hear all that was being said. Those fifty miners' wives who had sent her here as their representative from their woman's auxiliary of the National Miners Union would want to know everything that had happened. She and her husband and baby had traveled all night in a truck with fifteen other miners and their wives and small children.

### Kids Cry for Bread

Conditions back there were something awful, she said. Men with big families to support and no work for months. Others with two or three days a week, and that not regular. Her man had been luckier than some. But most, their kids were wanting for shoes and coats and crying for bread. The U.M.W. had gone to pieces, since Lewis sold out the strike and men were nigh desperate when the new National Miners Union and Workers International Relief came. Now they were pulling themselves together, and with everybody jes' sticking, and other workers backing them up, the miners and their wives would fight these bosses to a finish.

Louise, an auto worker from Detroit. A little firebrand, carrying on effective work, especially among the women. Angelo and Mary, needle pushers from Philadelphia, whom I had not seen in seven years. And many others. These were the type of workers who had been chosen by their shop mates to represent them at this convention. Close to the rank and file, coming right from the job and class struggle.

Never had I seen so many young faces at a labor convention, or so many women and Negroes. And so many cotton dresses and work shirts! It was going to be different, all right, from an A. F. of L. or Amalgamated Convention, where middle aged men, in new suits and stiff collars—fat-bellied officials and skilled workmen from labor's aristocratic upper-tenth—pretended to legislate for American labor. Here at Cleveland was American labor, straight from shop, mine and field. No longer were the officials to be allowed to speak for labor, it would speak for itself. What would it say, what action would it take?

(To be continued)

**WORKING WOMEN!**  
WORK FOR YOUR CLASS.  
Join The  
**COMMUNIST PARTY**

ELLA MAY WIGGINS



Murdered Sept. 14, 1929, by hired thugs of the Manville-Jenckes Co., mill-owners.

### Women Active in N.T.W.U.

Women textile workers in the South are taking an active part in union work. In the present Leaksville strike in North Carolina, under the leadership of the National Textile Workers Union, women are on the picket line, women take a leading part at the meetings, women are showing that they can and will fight along with the men for a union and for better economic conditions.

There have been many myths about the South. The corrupt A. F. of L. leadership said that it would be impossible to organize the Negro workers alongside of the white workers. It has been said that the southern workers would never strike. Chambers of Commerce in North and South Carolina, Virginia, Alabama and Georgia, the chief textile states of the south, have for years advertised and boasted about the "cheap, docile American labor." Well, these myths are being smashed so quickly and forcefully that you can almost hear the crack.

Women on the picket line, fighting the cops. Women in the tent colony sitting up all night to guard against the armed attacks of the bosses' Committee of 100. Women making militant speeches at meetings, against speed-up, against wage-cuts, for shorter hours, for a union.

### In Relief Work

And the women are not only active in the union. A committee, composed largely of women, was in charge of relief, thousands of dollars worth of food going to the Loray mill strikers in Gastonia. At the Bessemer City conference of the National Textile Workers Union, a large part of the arrangements was taken care of by the women textile workers in Bessemer City. Throughout the South, the Workers International Relief and the International Labor Defense, have been largely built up through the efforts of the women workers in the South.

It was not an accident that on September 14, when one of the militant union members was murdered, it was a woman, Ella May Wiggins. Ella May, who fought for the union, who fought for the working-class, will long be remembered by the workers in America.

Read the paper of the working class  
The  
**DAILY WORKER**

**CLEVELAND, OHIO**  
**Working Women Progressive League**  
**SPECIAL CONFERENCE**  
Problems of Women Workers and fight for better conditions.  
Elect your shop committees and send your delegates to this conference  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 8 P. M.**  
**1426 W. 3rd STREET, CLEVELAND, O.**

# WOMEN ORGANIZE IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINING FIELDS

WEST FRANKFORT, Ill. (by mail).

New machinery and speed-up in the Southern Illinois as hard as it hit other sections of the mining industry of America. The average miner's working week has been reduced to three days or less. Thousands and thousands of miners have been permanently thrown out of work—displaced. Detroit and other industrial centers in the vicinity overflow with miners seeking work outside the mines. Many of the pretty little houses which the miners bought during the boom times are deserted. Families are broken up with father working in one city (if lucky), the mother in another and the children scattered wherever they can find food and shelter. Last year the miners could still buy groceries on credit, work or no work. Today there is no more credit. Families take loans on their furniture to pay for food. Inside the "pretty little houses," hunger and cold prevail.

The wives and children of these unemployed miners are a source of cheap labor. And the bosses have seized the opportunity to get workers who are forced by hunger to work for unbelievably low wages, by setting up factories of all kinds in these mining towns. At an average of \$8 to \$10 a week, the women are subjected to intense speed-up which saps their strength in a few years. At the age of 35, these women can no longer get work, are thrown on the scrap heap and thrust into the ranks of the permanently unemployed.

### Miners' Wives Active

But hand-in-hand with this rationalization of industry comes the radicalization of the working class. The activities of the miners' wives in the strikes—leading picket lines, etc.—and their response to the militant, class conscious program of the National Miners Union, prove that the women will fight militantly under the banner of the National Miners Union against the bosses. The miners came into the union and are coming into the union almost too fast for the organizers to handle.

The old A. F. of L. Union, the United Mine Workers of America, had become a milk cow for the officialdom. It always paid them to sell out the miners' strikes to the bosses. The check-off system was taking food from the mouths of the miners' children to feed John L. Lewis and his A. F. of L. lackeys. Through bitter experiences, the miners and their wives have learned to fight the bosses and their willing tool, the A. F. of L. Thousands of miners in these centers have left the A. F. of L. fake union (the U.M.W.A.) and are joining the militant National Miners Union, section of the Trade Union Unity League. More and more, they are coming to understand the program of the new union, its class conscious militancy, its recognition of the necessity for the abolition of capitalist exploitation as the only way to the emancipation of the working class. The extreme exploitation imposed by the capitalists has taught the miners' women to work hand-in-hand with husbands and brothers as one family of labor. This is shown by the organization of a Ladies Auxiliary which is to function on the same basis as the local union and is to exchange delegates with the N.M.U.

### Importance of Women

Women play an important role in the struggle in the mining territory. Women can break the strike through lack of understanding of the class struggle, or they can help win the strike by fighting shoulder to shoulder with the miners. They are welcoming the decision to organize the auxiliaries. They are eager to see this work carried through. Not only are they taking a more active interest in the miners union, but they are beginning to become interested in the political aspect of the class struggle. The Communist Party in its organizational work among these women is drawing them closer to revolutionary movement, drawing more and more of them into the ranks of the Party and teaching them the role of the working class woman in the class struggle.

**FIGHT "SOCIALIST" TERROR**  
**MILWAUKEE, Wis.**—Milwaukee working class women are continuing the fight for the reinstatement of Joel Schneider, Young Pioneer suspended and transferred from his school for his activity as a Pioneer. The persecution of members of the Young Pioneers comes at the hands of a "socialist" school board.

# WORKING WOMEN ANSWER CALL OF UCWW

The United Council of Working Class Women, came into existence after the war on the wave of increased cost of living, high rents, insufficient school facilities, shrinking pay envelopes and general worsening of the conditions of the working class.

Within a few years time it developed into a strong revolutionary organization of working class women. The growth of the Women's council is synonymous with the growth of the class consciousness of the working class women.

The heroic battles of Passaic, New Bedford, Miners Strike, Food Workers, Furriers, Cloakmakers, Gastonia, etc., have found housewives battling side by side with the working men, where they participated on the picket lines, were clubbed, arrested, jailed, etc. This has also been the lot of working class women. They have encouraged and inspired the strikers by their activity, and have won their place in the ranks of class conscious fighters.

The U.C.W.W. have to a certain extent penetrated into the homes of the workers by organizing councils, laying the basis for a broad movement among the working class women.

The ushering in of a greater period of struggle on the part of the American workers creates great tasks for the U.C.W.W. The lowering of the standard of living of the working class will draw thousands of women, white and colored into the class struggle. It will be the task of the U.C.W.W. to organize the proletarian workers' wives, and assume leadership in all their struggles. The revolutionary wave of class battles in America will find the councils ready.

In order to fulfill its great tasks, the U.C.W.C.W. must have its correct political view. The Democratic and Republican parties are for the domination of the capitalist class. In the struggles of the workers against capitalist oppression, they find the capitalist parties fighting the working class and the working class loyally the bidding of their Wall Street masters.

### Struggle Against Bourgeois Parties

The Democratic and Republican administration uses the police to club in strikes and all struggles of the workers. The so-called Socialist Party liquidated their Socialism long ago and became a third capitalist party. Where they have come to power, in Germany, England, they help to oppress the masses by aiding the capitalists. The shooting of workers in Berlin on May 1st—the subjection of India and breaking of strikes by MacDonald, Socialist Premier, are indications of the policies of the Hillquits and Thomases of America.

Only by a determined struggle against these traitors within the ranks of the working class can the workers carry out a clear path to victory.

The councils are being developed politically and reacting with class-consciousness to all situations concerning the militant working class. This was especially shown in the attitude taken towards Kate Gitlow's resignation, former secretary, who allied herself with the renegades of Communism, Lovestone and Gitlow group. Those who are now waging an open campaign against the policies of the Soviet Union and in this way aiding all enemies of the working class.

The membership signified the determination to fight and sweep away any obstacles in their way of mobilizing the proletarian workers, wives for the class struggle.

The increased oppression of American capitalism and the growing militant struggles, which is resulting from this oppression offers us a good opportunity to reach the great masses of proletarian workers' wives. Every member of the U.C.W.C.W. must acquaint herself with the tasks before us. Every member must become more active than ever before. Each member must help to get new members, must participate in all activities of the councils. We must increase our activities in all labor problems on a clear class-cut policy.

**FORWARD TO A MASS MOVEMENT OF WORKING CLASS WOMEN REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR OR CREED.**

# BISCUIT WORKERS ASK FOR UNION

For several years I have been working in the packing department of the National Biscuit Company, where the majority of the workers are women. We have to stand ~~in long hours in one~~ square foot of space without moving at all. In the summer time it is worst of all — just like an oven. The temperature goes up as high as a hundred. Hot pans of crackers are spread all over the floor. From our sweat, our clothes look as if we had just come out of a swimming pool.

Comparing the wages with what work we do — they are miserable, from \$14 to \$24 a week. Women who have spent their lives here may get \$30, but it's the new efficiency system not to let any one stay here very long any more. We have a new manager now, and about the first thing he did was to lay off a bunch of the older girls. Then he hired a lot of young girls at \$14 a week. He took away our "rest" periods too. We used to be allowed to run out for fifteen minutes morning and afternoon — to the toilet or just to sit down. But we can't any more.

The new manager has given orders to all the straw bosses to make us work faster. The foreman or forelady stands behind us most of the time, yelling "make it snappy." Every two or three months, as soon as they produce forty-five to fifty barrels, no girl can complain without being jumped on by the foreman. He says, "Well, if you don't like it, you know where you can go." If we only had a union, then we'd know where we could go!

## Organize Women for Class Struggle

(Continued from page 1)

zation Committee, since one of the chief tasks will be work amongst unorganized women.

3. A special research bureau to be organized for the purpose of gathering information with regard to women workers in the particular industry and locality, this to be used as a basis for our propaganda and to be compiled and forwarded to the National Women's Department.

4. Every official publication or bulletin is to have a special Women's section, to be in charge of a press committee whose duty it shall be to encourage workers' correspondence from women and to edit the Women's section.

5. Special educational activities to be organized for the purpose of training women for active work — these comrades to be planted in the important shops and factories employing women workers in large numbers.

6. The Women's Department of every industry and locality to draw up an economic program in line with the general program of demands of the T. U. U. L. to be adjusted to the specific conditions in the particular industry and locality.

7. The Women's Department to arrange special women's conferences for the purpose of stimulating organization work amongst women and drawing them more actively into the work.

8. These conferences are to work out plans for the organization of shop circles both in the organized as well as the unorganized shops, whose aim it shall be to carry on general agitation amongst the women workers, to penetrate the unorganized shops and to bring the various issues of the T. U. U. L. into their respective shops.

In all these activities particular stress must be laid on work amongst Negro women, who because of racial prejudices are even more ruthlessly exploited and are discriminated against not only by the employers but also by the existing reformist unions to a much greater extent than the white women.

**UNITED FRONT OF  
WORKING MEN AND  
WORKING WOMEN  
AGAINST CAPITALISM**

# MOTHER OF FIVE, STRIKE MURDER VICTIM, BURIED



ORPHANS OF STRIKE MURDER—The five children left homeless and destitute by the killing of their mother, Mrs. Ella May Wiggins, are shown beside her grave after funeral services in Gastonia, N. C. Mrs. Wiggins was murdered during the anti-Red riot mill bosses.

## Harlem Tenant's League Calls for Organization

(Continued from page 1)

is growing, this decision is simply an edict of the landlords to put tenants into the streets to starve and freeze. The Harlem Tenants League has all along exposed the trickery of the politicians who passed the rent laws simply as a gesture to catch votes, and planned this decision to come after the elections, when the tenants are unable to voice their resentment at the polls. But the tenants will fight back. They will hold protest meetings and put forward the demand for a permanent law in the interests of the tenants. We must have no illusions, however, but must remember that only the organized might of the workers and tenants can effectively fight against the line-up of landlords, bankers, courts, police and the entire capitalist class.

"The Harlem Tenants League calls upon all tenants to organize house and block committees and to prepare not only for a gigantic mass protest, but to prepare to carry thru a rent strike which alone can avail to stop the rent gouging of the landlords and their agents."

## FASCISTI RECRUIT WOMEN FOR WAR

The fascist heinwehr of Austria is organizing women into its ranks and training them for fascist terror against the workers. Armed with rubber clubs and loaded sticks, these women, side by side with fascist men, attacked workers during the anniversary celebrations of the fascist Austrian government. The clash was over the murder of a worker by a fascist member.

In Austria, Hungary, Czecho Slovakia, Italy, no less than in Gastonia, N. C., which holds the record for murderous attacks on the struggling textile workers, everywhere the bosses are sharpening their weapons for fascist violence against the working class. The capitalist class, looking ahead to the coming world war and planning its attack on the Soviet Union, is recruiting women into military, fascist organizations of every kind, training them in fascist methods of leading up and killing militant workers.

**LENIN SAID: "THE WORKING WOMEN MUST BE TAUGHT TO FIGHT TOGETHER WITH THE MEN AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF THE CAPITALISTS TO FIGHT FOR SOCIAL LEGISLATION, FOR SHORTER WORKING DAY, FOR BETTER WAGES."**

# GASTONIA STRIKES—A BLOW FOR FREEDOM

While Sheriff Adkins who superintended the shooting down in cold blood of strikers on the picket line at Marion, N. C., goes free, and his ten deputies as well as the murderers of Ella May in Gastonia are whitewashed by the bosses capitalist court, 7 militant textile strike leaders of the National Textile Workers Union in Gastonia face 17 to 20 years in jail! The president of the Marion Mfg. Company went the way of the mill owners in Gastonia, one better, not only in the way he openly praised the work of the hired gunmen, but in carrying out the mill barons murder plans under the cloak of bona fide, A. F. of L. reactionary craft unionism. The A. F. of L. officials aided by the Socialists, Mr. Muste and Company, the church and the capitalist state, sold out the strike at Marion—sending the workers back to the mill with a fake agreement scribbled on a scrap of paper, unsigned—a so-called agreement made in the presence of the millionaire mill owner Gov. Gardner's tools: Judge N. A. Townsend and a banker from Asheville. When the workers struck again in protest against the violation of the fake agreement, the bosses' bullets finished the job for the A. F. of L.—6 strikers lay dead, shot through the back.

The record of the Gastonia textile strikers under the leadership of the National Textile Workers Union, is a splendid example of workers' resistance in the face of murderous fascist terror, of militant struggle without compromise, to organize the 2,000 enslaved and starving workers in the Loray textile mill. Half of these workers are women. The greater number worked 72 hours on the night shift. For the women an endless night of slavery at the machine—long hours of household drudgery by day—the only relief—a few hours of broken sleep. Children, ragged and hungry, old before they have lived—stunted, cheated, while their toil lined the pockets of the mill barons with millions in profits.

### Bosses' Big Profits

Manville-Janckes paid \$12,000,000 in dividends last year on common stock—while the workers tried to exist on weekly wages that did not average \$10. Binnie Green, 15 year old spinner at the Loray slave-pen, earned a maximum of \$4.95 a week for 60-72 hours of body-crushing toil. Binnie Green among many others learned the lesson of Gastonia and became a Pioneer—a fighting child worker in the children's section of the Communist Party.

300,000 textile mill slaves in the South are waiting to be organized—60% of them wo-

men. Militant leadership will win these workers into the ranks for class struggle. The first round of the battle in Gastonia has aroused the South—has struck the first real blow against the bosses' rule. Never before in the history of the South has there been such an awakening of workers, such a response of black and white workers to unite for struggle against the common enemy—the boss class and the capitalist state, of which it is a part.

### Workers Ready

And never before have the workers listened so eagerly and followed the leadership of the Communist Party—the only party of the working class. Driven by the maddening stretch-out speed-up system to greater and greater production, driven by the wailing and greater starvation, betrayed again and again by the reactionaries, the workers in the newly industrialized South begin to see the line-up of class forces—begin to understand the relentless opposition of the Communist Party against the boss class—begin to recognize and follow the fighting leadership of the Communist Party accepting its program in spite of all the efforts made to intimidate the workers by the lynch law patriots of "law and order," the bosses and their tools, the state, the Ku Klux Klan, the churches, the prostitute press. The Communist Party, seizing the right of way in the South, has driven the entering wedge for economic and political organization of the workers. Nothing can stand in the way. The seven military workers who stood in the front line of fight in Gastonia and now face the prospect of life sentence in jail at the hands of the capitalist class, must be released and the working class aroused as never before to fight to free them. Gastonia is a weapon and a challenge for the most determined struggle that has yet been waged against capitalist exploitation in the American empire. Gastonia is the opening gun in the war to a finish against the whole tottering, decaying, rotting structure of capitalism. The Communist Party leads the way.

### DUTCH REFORMISTS BREAK STRIKE

AMSTERDAM (By Mail)—The strike of the land workers in Groningen has been defeated in consequence of the treachery of the social democrats. Wynkoop and his friends supported the reformists and fought against the revolutionary strike leaders.

**JOIN AND BUILD THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY!**

# Working Women Mobilize for Struggle

Page Four

THE WORKING WOMAN

December, 1929

## OUR AIM

American capitalism increases the productive capacity of its industries in the unprecedented manner it does by means of a systematic division and simplification of labor. With the aid of machinery, the complicated operations of the skilled workers are subdivided into many simple operations of unskilled workers. This process has opened the industries for a more extensive use of women workers than ever before. As presumably more docile objects of exploitation, the women workers are put into the places of the men at a much lower average of wages than those paid for the same work to men.

The ever greater influx of working women into the industries is having its decisive effects upon women's organizations, of which the women's trade union league is a part. Most of these organizations have in the past been dominated by feminist, pacifist, and other petty bourgeois ideologies. They have been dominated by petty bourgeois individuals as leaders. These organizations are the agencies of the capitalist class, whose aim is to dampen the rising discontent of the working women and to divert them from the class-struggle, to make them willing tools in the coming imperialist war. But the daily difficulty with which the working woman is confronted in the shop, the problem that arises out of the economic relationship of the working woman to her boss, the thousands of little and big miseries and indignities which the woman worker has to suffer in the shop by virtue of her function as a wage slave, are more and more dominating the minds of the masses of working women. Since these problems do not and cannot find any consideration in these fundamentally petty bourgeois and feminist women's organizations, there arises a conflict in all these organizations where women workers are found. The working woman learns by bitter experience that her problem is not a feminist but a worker problem. She learns that the correct slogan for her is not "women of the world, unite," but Workers of the World, Unite.

### Our Task

The learning of the truth means the growth of an ideological and organizational division between the working women and the petty and big bourgeois club-women and feminists. It means that the working women learn that the decisive problem of the workingwomen is not a "woman's organization" but a workers' organization for the purpose of defending the interests of the workers in general and the working-women in particular. "The Working Woman" will be guided by this decisive necessity of the hour. It will endeavor to agitate among the women workers in industry for industrial unionism for the women and men in industry. These industrial unions must provide the organizational force without which the solution of the immediate problems of the masses of working women cannot be tackled.

"The Working Woman," at the same time realizes that these immediate economic struggles need political guidance. These struggles will tend to solve the problem of the working women only if they are gradually revolutionized. It will be the task of "The Working Woman" to give political guidance to the activities of the working women in these class struggle organizations with a view of developing among them the revolutionary determination which, eventually, will make them fight side by side with the working men for the overthrow of the political rule of the capitalist class and for the establishment of a workers' dictatorship.

The leadership of the American Federation of Labor and of the Socialist Party can contribute just as little to the solution of the problems of the working women as the bourgeois and petty bourgeois leadership of the women's clubs and women's organizations does. Only the other day the leadership of the A. F. of L. agreed not to lead the workers into, or organize them for, struggles for increased wages. That promise of the A. F. of L. sounds very nice in the ears of bourgeois minded women club-leaders. The words "industrial peace" in the eyes of petty bourgeois housewives and busy "club women" look so nice. But what about the tens of thousands of women who

slave in the southern textile mills for \$5, \$6, \$7 and \$8 a week? What good is "industrial peace" for them? To them it simply means slow starvation. The only correct slogan for them is war—class war. No argument of the beauties of "peace" can impress them because to them "industrial peace" means a continuation of the misery from which they are suffering. A leadership such as the A. F. of L. and the socialist party which operates with such a slogan and with such pacts as the one just entered into in Washington, does not stand for industrial peace but, in reality, it stands for a one-sided industrial war. It simply declares that the bosses shall have an unrestricted right of way in their endeavor to crush more profits out of the lifeblood and happiness of the masses of working women, while it stigmatizes it as a crime for these workingwomen to organize and to fight against the perpetrators of this misery and against the capitalist system which makes possible this misery.

"The Working Woman" is an organ of the Communist Party. Communism is equivalent to bolshevism. The bosses and their agents in the A. F. of L. and socialist party have spent the past twelve years in picturing bolshevism and the bolsheviks as the most terrible things and creatures. They have attempted to utilize bolshevism as a bugaboo. They have maligned the Soviet Union to such a degree that they hope to influence the workers in the United States against the Communists by merely telling these workers that the Communists stand for "Russian conditions."

"The Working Woman" is proud to state that it not only stands for "Russian conditions" but is fighting for the same conditions in the United States. It believes that the American working women must unite with the working men to fight as a first aim, for such "Russian conditions" as the 7-hour, 5-day week; a month's vacation with pay every year; maternity insurance for working women; two months leave of absence with full pay before and after childbirth; special protection of the woman in industry; absolute and unqualified prohibition of child labor, etc. "The Working Woman" is of the opinion that these "Russian conditions" are worth fighting for and that the care which capitalist "civilization" of capitalist America grants the working woman is incomparably below that granted to the working women in the "barbarous" Soviet Union. The "barbarity" of the Soviet rule is seen by capitalist America in the fact that the workers rule in Soviet Union and that the laws of the land, therefore, are adapted to the needs and problems of the workers and do not favor the bosses.

### Organize!

"The Working Woman" believes that the American working women have no reason to shed tears about the disregard with which the Soviet rule considers the interests of the bosses. The American working women need not be concerned with the interests of the bosses. The whole government machinery in America takes care of these interests. But if the working woman wants to have her interests taken care of she has only one effective method, and that is organization and struggle. Organize together with the masses employed in industry! Organization in industrial unions and working class action in the political battles.

The same forces which drive ever greater masses of working class women into the treadmill of capitalism, into the mills and factories, are also driving toward a new world war. The bosses' governments are confronted with the problem of providing markets for the rapidly increasing output of industrial products. Capitalism also needs new markets for the capital which is accumulating out of the sweat and blood of the workers, their wives and their children. This quest for new markets drives the different capitalist governments to encroach upon the markets of their competitors. The result is a struggle for these markets by force of arms—a war. Such a war has again become inevitable, and feverish preparations are being made for it by the capitalists. Knowing that the masses don't want war, the American government is covering up its war preparations with pacifist propaganda. The bourgeois and petty bourgeois leadership of the feminist and pacifist-socialist movement are part and parcel of the capitalist war mongers. The working class is only the sufferer in a capitalist war; but it cannot meet the danger of a capitalist

war with pacifism; it must fight against capitalist war. The working women do their share in the prevention of war by becoming a part of an organized struggle on the part of the whole working class against capitalist war, against war preparation, and against capitalism itself.

As a part of this struggle against capitalist war, the working women must solid-ize themselves with the movement for the defense of the Soviet Union. All wars are directed against the working class. They are sufficiently conscious forces in the working class everywhere that know that and that will put up a fight against war. Partly as a struggle against this conscious element in the working class everywhere, and partly as a life and death struggle against the workers' government in the Soviet Union, the capitalist governments are organizing for an armed attack against the Soviet Union. The defense of the Soviet Union is the defense of the interests of the workers in every country. The defense of the interests of the working women in the United States, therefore, demands their participation in the defense of the Soviet Union.

To win the working women for this program, to organize them to lead them in their economic and political struggles will be the program of "The Working Woman."

## YOUNG WOMEN, ORGANIZE!

In recent years a large number of young girls have entered into every important industry of the United States. In the auto mills, in the rubber speed-up factories, in the steel and machine factories, thousands of young girls have been hired to displace adult workers. The desire for greater profits on the part of the bosses has resulted in the employment of cheap labor — and young girls form one of the lowest paid sections of the working class.

In the machine industry, which at one time was a highly skilled trade, employing only skilled mechanics, we find today young girls are employed to work on the automatic screw and press machines, receiving wages as low as 20c an hour.

In the steel mills, particularly in the finished products of the steel industry, girls are employed in large numbers getting half and sometimes even less wages than the male workers. These girls, as for instance in the Thompson Products Company of Cleveland, work 12 and 14 hours a day averaging about \$15 a week.

In the textile mills of the South and North, young girls are forced to work in unhealthy and unsanitary conditions for wages which barely keep them alive. Particularly bad are the working conditions and wages of the Negro women, some working for \$2 and \$5 a week (\$5.00 being considered a high wage).

As the conditions of the working class become steadily worse, the young girls entering the industries in ever increasing numbers are rapidly realizing that they have become a permanent section of the working class. The illusion that they can escape from the factory through marriage has been shattered by facts. Millions of married women have become a part of the exploited army of workers in order to make up for the low wages of the men workers.

As a result of the terrible speed-up and low wages, many strikes have taken place in recent months (Gastonia, Elizabethton, New York, Philadelphia), everywhere the women workers fought as militantly and as fearlessly as the men workers. These young girls not only play an important role today, but will play an even far greater role in the working class struggles of the coming war, particularly those workers employed in war industries, such as automobile, aircraft, munition.

Organization is an immediate need for the women workers. Betrayed by the Women's Trade Union League and the A. F. of L., which are now only the tools of the bosses, they turn to the Trade Union Unity League, the militant revolutionary trade union center. Only through fighting for the demands of the Trade Union Unity League in a united struggle with the adult workers can the women workers gain better conditions.

## DRESSMAKERS, JOIN THE NEEDLE TRADES WORKERS IND. UNION

The New York bosses of the dress trade, the Socialist Party, the A. F. of L. and the W.T.U. League have all joined forces to crush the rising wave of militancy of the Needle Trades workers, and to crush the revolutionary Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union.

At the expense of the workers the International Garment Workers officials got the bosses to agree to a "general strike" in the early part of December. It is particularly important that the workers examine and fully understand this so-called "strike."

No demands were advanced by the A. F. of L. fakers which would tend to improve the conditions of the workers, which would abolish the sweat-shop piece work system. The reasons for it are plain. Shlesinger & Co., true disciples of the A. F. of L. labor traitors are not interested in improving the conditions of the workers, they are interested in and represent the welfare of the bosses. They are part of the labor traitor group that promised Hoover not to permit the workers to strike for better conditions, thereby making possible greater attacks and exploitation of the workers by the bosses and the government.

In order to break the militant spirit of the Needle Trades workers, to worsen their already miserable conditions and to destroy the Needle Trades Industrial Union, which fights militantly for improving the conditions of the workers, the bosses have agreed to this gesture of a "strike." The scheduled strike of the dressmakers is neither a strike nor a "lockout." It is a scheme of the bosses to use the reformist trade union of the A. F. of L. to fool the workers to organize and control them. The whole business has been cut and dried by the bosses and their tools, the Socialist betrayers, the Schlesinger gang. The A. F. of L. officials have promised not to demand better conditions for the workers to hold them back from struggle against extreme exploitation and the bosses have agreed to force the needle trades workers to join the I.L.G.W.U., which is a company union.

### Must Mobilize

What then shall the needle workers do to throw back the offensive of the bosses and the social fascist Shlesinger Union? The needle trades workers must mobilize for battle—carry on a relentless struggle to win the workers for the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. To increase ten-fold their activities to build shop delegates—to start real organization activities in the unorganized shops were 15,000 Negro women and thousands of white dressmakers are extremely exploited. To mobilize their shops for a real fight by forming RANK AND FILE UNITED COMMITTEES from the workers at the bench, irrespective of their affiliations, to strike the shops where the bosses try to prevent the mobilization and organization of the workers, or where the bosses refuse to enforce the agreement of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. The Needle Trades workers must rally to the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union and supply them with militant leaders, to strengthen the committees of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, to mobilize and prepare the dressmakers for a real general strike with demands for: 7-hour day, 5-day week, equal pay for equal work for Negro and white working men and women. For social insurance, unemployment, sickness and old age. Annual monthly holiday with pay. For protection during child-birth periods.

**DRESSMAKERS! FIGHT THE SPEED-UP, WAGE CUTS, DRIVE SHLESINGER AND HIS COMPANY UNION OUT OF THE DRESS INDUSTRY.**

**JOIN THE NEEDLE TRADES WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION!**

## Policeman Blows Whistle, Boss Fires Counter Girl

Last spring the cafeteria workers went on strike, and the policemen showed how "true blue" they are. They rode their horses on the sidewalk to break up the picket lines, and it made no difference to them whether it was man or woman who felt the horse-shoes. Girls who had been serving the police "coffee and" for years, found out how a policeman's club tastes.

Sylvia W. is one little striker who was wise enough not to expect any more from a policeman than from a boss. So she decided not to look for an open-shop job around the garment section, where she had been very active in the strike. She hid herself on the water-front for a while in the hopes of building up a shop committee and unionizing one of the South Street cafeterias when the next organization drive comes.

But Sylvia had under-estimated the vindictiveness of cops. She hadn't been working three hours behind the counter, when one of these worthies appeared, spied her and called out, "Hugh, we've got a union house, have we?" After a short consultation between boss and policeman, Sylvia was told to take her red, curly head, with its red ideas, somewhere else. So it became clear to Sylvia how close is the alliance between police and bosses against the workers.

## Girls Slave for Starvation Wages in 5 and 10c Stores

The slave conditions of the New York 5 and 10c store sales-girls can only be compared to the conditions in the South. Working 51 hours a week, not including lunch hours, for the "grand" sum of \$12 a week, these young girls form a miserably paid section of the working class.

A beginner's wage in the Woolworth and McCrory stores is about \$8.00 in the smaller towns, sometimes even less—reaching after many years of "service" the maximum of \$15.00. One sales-girl employed by Woolworth for eleven years today gets the unusual sum of \$18. Ordinarily the girls do not work long enough to make more than \$10 or \$12.

When it comes to keeping down the wages of the workers the various chain companies certainly know how. A Woolworth clerk gives an example of cooperation between two of the largest chain store companies. In a certain Brooklyn Woolworth store the girls were paid \$12. A McCrory store opened across the street and offered its workers \$13. The Woolworth girls complained. The Woolworth manager, a loyal tool of the bosses, spoke to the McCrory manager and almost immediately after the McCrory workers' wage was cut to \$12.

For these low wages the sales-girls in the 5 and 10c stores must work from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every week-day and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays—a 54 hour week (at the rate of 23c an hour). They actually work even longer—it takes each salesgirl at least 30 minutes after working hours to straighten the stock, close the accounts, and for this no extra pay.

Although the girls are provided with seats behind the counters, they are not allowed to use them. Special permission is required to leave the floor for the wash-room, and the girls are expected to return in five minutes. Sometimes the girls must apply to the floor-walker and sign a slip stating the cause and the time of leaving.

The girls working in the 5 and 10c stores, and in all department stores, are beginning to recognize that only thru organization can they get better conditions, higher wages and better hours. The only organization that fights for the interests of the store workers and all workers is the Trade Union Unity League, which recently held its conference in Cleveland and laid plans for carrying on a sharp fight against the bosses and demanding:

**HIGHER WAGES, UNEMPLOYMENT AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE, A 7-HOUR DAY, 5-DAY WEEK, ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR WORKING WOMEN. JOIN THE TRADE UNION UNITY LEAGUE AND FIGHT FOR YOUR WORKING-CLASS RIGHTS! JOIN THE MILITANT UNION OF THE WORKERS!**

## ELLA MAY WIGGINS' CHILDREN



Their mother was murdered by Manville-Jenckes thugs at Gastonia, N. C. on her way to a meeting the National Textile Workers' Union.



## More Work But Less Wages For McCord Workers

### SPEED UP THE RADIATOR WORKERS

I am a woman worker who has been working in the McCord Auto Radiator and Manufacturing Company plant for a number of years. When I started to work I received forty cents per hour and bonus. Those of us working on machines made up to forty-five cents per hour and bonus. Our wages amounted to \$36-\$40 for ten days' pay.

Everything has changed for the worse. Now we have been cut to 31 cents per hour and bonus, the latter hardly ever amounting to anything. The forelady's favorites make from 36-38 cents per hour, while new girls are hired at 30 cents an hour and bonus.

Now most of us make from \$25 to \$30 for ten days' pay, or in other words for two weeks' pay. The health conditions are rotten. There is no ventilation, the fumes traveling throughout the floor causing us to get sore throats and often tuberculosis.

Formerly we turned out 8,000 pieces in ten hours, and now we are expected to turn out 9,000 pieces in nine hours. We cannot help ourselves. Many of the girls are compelled to support families, because their husbands are laid off. We are hoping that the Auto Workers' Union will grow powerful enough to include us and protect our lives and better our conditions.

## In the Far East

The Far East! How many beautiful illusions are fostered in its name! The reader may have seen pictures of the professional gay girls of Japan, the "geisha" girls, intellectuals (some), or heard of the sweet and pitiful "sing-song girls" of China, or the proud brown beauties of Manila. But—there is another side to the picture.

Have you seen Japanese working women loading ships with coal at Nagasaki? Do you know something about the splendid daring and sacrifice of the revolutionary women of the Chinese trade unions? Have you heard of the conditions of women tobacco workers in the Manila factories, or those who embroider those beautiful Manila shawls ("mantons")?

These things no capitalist paper or magazine will tell you. You must read the "Pan-Pacific Monthly," the organ of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Secretariat of Shanghai. In its November issue, which you can buy here at bookstores that obtain it through the Workers Library Publishers—its American distributors—given the resolution of the Pacific Union recent conference on Woman Labor, its position in the Far East and what these unions are doing in this great area to advance the conditions of oppressed working women. H. G.

## Cranberry Picking and Child Slavery in Prosperous U. S. A.

"Conditions unbelievable in a civilized country exist in the cranberry bogs where 2,000 school children work each fall under a relentless padrone system." Children, seven years old, work in the cranberry bogs—standing all day in wet, swampy ground, or down on their knees, picking cranberries for Thanksgiving dinners only the rich can afford! Young children and women, scratched by the brambles and thorns, their swollen bleeding arms and hands tied up in filthy rags, slave from daybreak until night falls and are paid 15 cents a peck for this back-breaking toil. Such are the working conditions in New Jersey, a leading cranberry growing center. 2,000 children alone are at work on the Pemberton, N. J., cranberry bog, one of the largest producers.

The miserable shacks in which the workers are forced to live with their families, are not fit to house cattle. Flimsy boxes with no sanitary arrangements, no water, one pump for three shacks, no stoves, no convenience of any kind, a real slave pen out of which the bosses make extra profits in rent.

### Children Kept From School

The cranberry bogs of New Jersey, sapping the life out of small children, represent only one more black spot in the record of capitalist greed and exploitation. New Jersey, where the great strike of the Passaic textile workers made a record fight against the mill barons' exploitation and laid the foundation for the National Textile Workers Union; New Jersey, where women have died a horrible death from radium poisoning in painting watch dials, New Jersey, the state of Standard Oil, with uncounted numbers of workers killed by "looney" gas, out of which the oil trust made added millions.

The cranberry growers of New Jersey know well how to take full advantage of the child labor law special clause, permitting children of ten to work outside of school hours—the bosses just keep the children out of school by working them 12-14 hours a day picking cranberries!

The capitalist class and its agents—the state, the church, the school—preach about the "sanctity of the home and childhood," while millions of children are more and more ground into dollars in the mills, factories and on the land. Child labor, child slavery, can only be abolished by destroying the capitalist system. The working class must organize!

## Candy Worker Learns of Boss "Insurance"

Let me tell you about how good the bosses are to us workers when we get hurt. I work in a candy factory where the boss has an accident insurance policy. My job is to pick out the burnt pieces from the tray. Right above me is an electric fan. The other day, in reaching to the end of my tray, my hand got caught in the fan and my finger was badly cut.

I had to go home and go to the doctor to have it bandaged. I telephoned the boss about it, and he said that I would get "insurance." When I went to the factory to see about it, the boss said that if my hand still was hurt after two weeks, then I would get one week's pay, which was \$14. For every week afterwards that I was disabled, I would get two-thirds of a week's pay.

So I don't know yet if I am going to get anything at all because the first two week is not up, though my hand isn't healed yet!

In our factory, four other girls besides me get \$14 a week, working nine and one-half hours a day. One girl who has been here five years had "worked herself up" to \$16. Eight boys get \$18; while the 25 men get from \$28 to \$36.

Between now and Christmas, we all have to work twelve hours a day because of the holiday rush. Of course, we get a little extra money for overtime, but it is not enough to pay the doctor's bill when we get hurt; and we're always getting hurt around holiday-time—we have to hurry so.

## Negro Domestic Worker Slaves 14 Hours a Day

To the Editor:

I work 14 hours a day including Sunday, just a few hours off in the whole week—for the grand sum of \$18.00. Out of this money I pay \$6.00 a week for room rent. My husband works but his pay and mine is hardly enough to support us and our 6 children. I wonder what can be done to better our condition.

—A Negro domestic worker.

Editor's Note:

Organization is the only way to fight effectively for better conditions, shorter hours and higher wages. Exploitation of the workers, Negro and white, can only be abolished by changing the present capitalist government into a workers government like that of the Soviet Union.

# WORKING WOMAN TAKES HER PLACE IN CLASS STRUGGLE

The victorious Russian Revolution has a particular significance for the working women of the world. It has torn away the bourgeois mask of hypocrisy regarding woman's position in society, where on the one hand the rich women live in luxury and idleness, while the women of the working class bear a twofold burden of slavery both in the homes and in the factories. The Russian revolution has placed woman in a new role shorn of all bourgeois sentimentality, a proud and independent worker, the builder of a new life and a new society, woman with a broader vision who is just ready to take up a rifle in defense of the revolution and to devote her time and energy to the daily task of reconstruction work in the Soviet Union.

The emancipation of the Russian woman from her age-long slavery has had a profound effect on the working women the world over, and has given rise to a new trend in the movement for the freedom of women. Inspired by the accomplishments of the working women in the Soviet Union, to whom the proletarian revolution meant not only economic but also social emancipation, the working women in the capitalist countries are gradually realizing that not in allying themselves with the women of the master class can they gain their emancipation; that their problems are identical with that of the men of their class, and can only be solved to the extent that the problems of the working class as a whole can be solved.

The women of the United States are entering the ranks of the militant working class side by side with the men workers. Here too we have our women labor heroines, who, like the women of the Russian Revolution risk their all in defense of their class. A recent striking example of our women martyrs in the class war war Ella May

(Continued on page 7)

## FAMILY OF TEXTILE WORKER, MURDERED IN MARION, N. C.

Luther Bryson, young textile worker, was one of 6 strikers shot down by sheriffs on the picket line during the strike at Marion, N. C. To the right are seen his three brothers and his mother. This is how capitalist America deals with workers who fight for better conditions.



### Japanese Women Workers Kept Under Lock and Key

In Japan, 42 per cent of the factory workers, including large proportion of girl textile workers, live under the dormitory system. Wages are only 30-60 cents a day, hours are 11-12 out of the 24. In spite of these "attractions" it seems that Japanese girls do not flock into the factories.

So the bosses recruit them from rural districts with promises and advance payments and then lock them into the factory compound where rival companies cannot steal them. In one plant, 2,600 girl operatives, 15 to 16 years of age, were living in the company's dormitories and were confined to the mill premises.

### A Little Story from Australia

By HARRISON GEORGE

SOME may forget that there are working women in far off Australia, notable chiefly for kangaroos and a funny bird called the "laughing jackass." But just the same, in Australia, way down under the end of the world, the island continent has working women who have an organized fighting class movement that is worth knowing about.

Like many other countries, the bosses take advantage of the inexperience of women, and the reformist negligence of the Australian unions in organizing women. Women workers are rapidly increasing in proportion to the men—but that's because the bosses hope to pay them less wages. The so-called "Labor Party" really helps the bosses, with its jingoistic race prejudice favoring a "White Australia" and its teachings of class collaboration. Altogether Australia's working women had to be heroic class fighters to pull themselves out of the mire of miserable petty bourgeois ideas. There is still in Australia the ancient maxim: "Woman's place is in the home."

#### Why Women Leave Home

Until recently, while industry was developing, labor was relatively scarce and well paid. But things are changing rapidly. Industry is meeting difficulties. Bosses are replacing men with low paid women. In 1886, the proportion of women to men in the factories was one to seven; in 1903, one to four; in 1928, one to three—in New South Wales. In Victoria, the second important industrial region, the proportion is now one to two. In 1926, the average wage for one man was \$1,175 a year, for women, \$530 a year. No wonder the bosses bring in women to factories! This is in unionized industry. As for the unorganized, the department stores. . . ! Much worse.

Yet even Australian women are better organized than American working women. But the yellow union leaders discourage women unionists. Only recently did one woman delegate get a seat on the New South Wales trades council.

But the Australian bosses have opened an offensive, lengthening hours, cutting wages, anti-trade union laws, one making it a crime to strike, and there is a big unemployed army utterly unable to find work. This makes everybody think, even the housewives, whom, bourgeois notions don't allow to think above the dishpan.

#### The Great Awakening

Great misery has brought great activity. The Communist Party helped and led the working women into the class struggle. A

fine little courageous girl of Sydney, Alice McCoanville, a Communist, led in the formation of the "Militant Women's Group" in the New South Wales Trade Council. But the first group was organized in the mining fields, where bitter conditions were—and are—found, at Cessnock, N. S. W. At Melbourne and at Brisbane groups were also formed, which did good work in the water-side strike, organizing and gathering relief, getting workers' wives together in struggle for the first time.

The Cessnock local was rather paralyzed by bourgeois notions of what was "proper" or "not proper" for women to do. In Melbourne the Militant Women's Group got into things deeper than relief work. They joined the men on the picket line and went to jail rather than pay fines—quite horrifying to all respectable (that is to say—bourgeois) opinion. The M. W. G. worked in complete harmony with the Strike Committee.

But in Sydney the Militant Women's Group was a dandy. The Timber Workers Union struck (lumber mill men and planing mills) and at once the militant women were on the job. Leaflets were out. Meetings of the strikers' wives were called. The men, as usual, had to be educated to the need for their wives getting active in class struggle. A lot of prejudices were fought and whipped. The Militant Women's Group became extremely popular even in the union where grumpy officials were at first very indifferent, or even hostile.

#### Women—The Best Class Fighters

When the leading reformist bureaucrats of the Australian unions wanted to surrender and go into a class collaboration agreement with bosses, and some experts in "industrial peace" were imported from England to lend an air of high approval, the Militant Women of Melbourne busted up the game by staging a regular row in the public meeting where the labor fakers headed by a Mr. Duggan, were "thanking and congratulating" the bosses' agents. Nine women were forcibly thrown out by the police, something that never happened before in Australia. Then when the fakers and bosses staged a joint and private meeting in Sydney, the Militant Women just naturally raided the place, exposed the whole affair in the press when arrested, and generally raised such a noise that the conference fell through.

Many things may be better than the Militant Women's Groups of Australia, but there are a few things American working women can learn from them, down by the South Pole.

## Working Women

THIS IS YOUR PAPER — WRITE TO IT

Working women in the factory, in the mill, in store, on the farm, wherever you are, write us about your conditions. Let other working women know how you live and work, what you bettering those conditions, what think, what your ideas are about you think about kicking the boss out altogether and running industry for yourselves, for us workers and our children.

Wives, mothers, sisters, daughters of working men, write to the Working Woman. Working class women often do not have an elementary school education, let alone college learning—but this is a working class women's paper read by working women who will understand

what you are trying to say, even if it is not written in a literary fashion and perhaps just because it isn't.

A new or rather a continuation of the last world war is looming. One of the first steps in fighting this war which the bosses will try to force upon us is to have a newspaper or magazine where we can talk things over so that we might organize our forces for a mighty blow against wars and their instigators, the bosses, the imperialists.

WRITE! WRITE! WRITE! WRITE!

The address is:  
Working Woman, 43 East 125th Street, New York City.

Working Women! Demand Equal Pay For Equal Work; Higher Wages, Shorter Hours—For Negro and White Women.

# THE UNION COMES TO MARTHA

By MYRA PAGE

Martha, a small figure in a faded apron, stood in the doorway of the Hawthorne's shack and watched through swimming eyes the other children passing by on their way to school. Some reluctant, some eager, all shabby, strolling or jumping along up the dirt street to the small grammar school. A tow-headed, blue-eyed and scrawny little crew, offspring of Carolina millhands.

Spying Martha, Lizzie called out, "Ain't you a-comin', Marthy?" Martha could only shake her head. "Naw," a small boy spoke up. "Doan you know, Marthy's Ma's going into the mill now?"

Martha turned back into the house and set to work, making beds, straightening the two bare rooms the Hawthornes called home, washing the breakfast dishes, and in between jobs keeping an eye out for her baby sister and two small brothers who were playing by the kitchen stove. Before Martha'd be ready, it'd be noon-time, and the mill whistle'd blow, and she and the kids would run out to meet Ma and Pa on their way home. And there'd be more dishes to wash.

It was January but Martha and her brothers were barefoot. Flossie, the little sister who was still at school, had on shoes, tho. The shoes were two-sizes too big for Flossie, but then this was a convenience, for when occasion demanded, Martha could wear them instead.

Martha was eleven years old, and had stood at the head of her class until she had to quit. Ma thought it was fine to have somebody in the family who could read. There were no schools when she and Pa were kids, for mill hands' kids to go to. Besides, kids went into the mills in those days at the age of eight. But now there was a school. Seems like the mill company had found that mill hands that could read and figure a little made better mill hands. So a grammar school had been built in the village.

One night, after Martha had finished reading and the kids looked at all the pictures, and Pa had played on the mouth harp, Pa took Martha on his knees and asked:

"You like school, eh, littl'un?"

"Oh, Pa, yes. I doan wanna leave school." Martha smiled up to Pa, but she noticed Pa and Ma looked at each other, and Martha thought they looked troubled.

# SOVIET FLYERS WITH THEIR PLANE



The four Soviet flyers, on the plane, "Land of the Soviets," were welcomed by thousands of workers in every city on their flight across the U. S.

"Can't I, Pa," she asked anxiously. "Woan you helpen me?"

"That's right, honey," Pa said, putting his long arms around her. "Me and your Ma'll work our fingers to the bone to helpen you. What you say, Bess?" Bess was Ma's other name.

"Well, Hinry, if we only kin!" And Ma sighed, so that Martha wanted to cry, for somehow that sigh made Martha remember that there was only one pair of shoes for Flossie and her, so somebody had to go to school barefoot and be shamed, and maybe catch cold besides, or stay at home, which Martha thought far worse.

"Sam, the boss spinner was by here today," Ma was saying. "They're needin an extra hand at the mill now." Both looked at Martha and away.

"Oh, it ain't as bad as that yit, Bess. Les hang on awhile, as it is."

But as weeks passed, the kids' clothes grew scantier, and the baby fell sick—doctor said for lack of milk,—and there was doctor's bills to pay out of Pa's twelve dollars-a-week wages. And Ma couldn't get no more credit ahead at the company store. So as soon as the baby was better Ma and Pa called Martha and broke the news. Ma must go into the mill, to spin from seven to six, because they had to have that six dollars. That meant Martha'd have to look after the housework and kids, while Ma was gone. Ma would help all she could, and so would Pa. It was hard Ma said, twisting her apron, but what else could they do?

"Oh, Ma—oh, Ma—I jes' can't leave school. Please, Ma." Muffled sobs came from Bessie's apron. "Pa, doan make me leave school."

"Mathy, honey, doan carry on like that. It's only for a little while. Soon's Pa gits on his feet, and th' bills are paid, you kin go back. Can't she, Pa?"

"You know, Marthy, there ain't nuthin' in th' world your, Ma and me wouldn't do to give you an ejikation and a chance, what your Ma and me never had. Maybe you kin go back soon."

But Pa knew, and Martha and Ma knew, there wasn't much chance of Martha ever getting back to school again. She had come home to stay. Look at Sally and May and Lizzie who'd left school to keep house so their Mas could work, had they ever gone back? Martha knew she'd keep house and tend babies until she was old enough to go into the mill.

So Martha washed and scrubbed and cooked until her small back ached, and Ma sewed far into the night, and Pa helped out with the ironing and sweeping. No time for stories now, or playing on the mouth harp. All they did was work, sleep and eat, and work some more. Even Flossie and the little brothers had to do their share. And something angry and rebellious began to grow in Martha's breast. She remembered what Pa had said about poor folks' kids not having any chance. She thought of Sally, Joan and Lizzie, and herself, and all

## To the Soviet Flyers

You have braved the Northern Storms,  
Brothers of the Soviet Land,  
And we with eager hearts and warm  
Are proud to shake your mighty hand.  
Through lonely days and darkest nights,  
You have roamed the cloud-filled skies,  
Withia you burning the Soviet flame;  
That vivid flame that never dies.  
This achievement in the air  
Is only part of what you've done.  
This great storm that you have fought  
Is only part of what you've won.

When I see your banners waving,  
It means: "Toilers of the World, Unite."  
Join hands, all Workers of the World  
And form a Union with labor's might.

—Shirley.

(Millinery Union Local 43.)

## Join the TRADE UNION UNITY LEAGUE

Organize into the new revolutionary unions and Trade Union Unity League Groups!

Build shop committees in the factory!

Fight against the capitalist speed-up, for the 7-hour day, 5-day week, and for special provisions for the working women!

For equal pay for equal work and against race discrimination!

Join the Trade Union Unity League!

the other little friends on Arlington Hill.

Some day, she made up her mind, things would be different. She was a-goin' to help make 'em different. Only she didn know how. Then one night, a stranger came to the house and talked in low tones to Ma and Pa about something he called a "union." And Pa said he was a-feart, he might git fired, and then how would he feed his littl' uns? And Ma looked excited and kept asking questions of the strange man. And then she began to argue with Pa not to be a-scairt, but to join up. She was a-joinin'. Everything'd be all right, if all would stick together. 'N how could things be any worse, anyways, weren't they nigh starvin'?

"Union—Union," Martha said over and over to herself and looked at her mother. It was the first time she'd seen Ma so brightened up since Martha'd quit school. She smiled, yes, she'd help—she'd get all the children on Arlington Hill to help—to build the Union, which would make life for her Ma and Pa easier, and send her back to school.

## WORKING WOMAN TAKES HER PLACE IN CLASS STRUGGLE

(Continued from page 6)

Wiggins, a victim of the Fascist terrorism in Gastonia.

During the past year the most bitter struggles waged by the working class of the United States against the speed-up system, low wages and long hours, have been in those industries employing women in vast numbers. In the strikes of the textile workers in Passaic, New Bedford, Little Falls, and the present gigantic struggle in the south, the women workers have fought in the front ranks with the men workers.

These revolts of the women workers in every part of the country have been carried thru against the will and over the heads of the official trade union bureaucracy, whose strike-breaking role has opened the eyes of the women workers to the effect that their only hope for organization lies with the militant trade union movement of the country—in the new industrial unions based on the class struggle. The splendid representation of 72 women delegates at the Trade Union Unity Conference in Cleveland is a convincing demonstration that the women workers are ready for organization.

The strike-breaking brutal role of the entire capitalist state machinery in these struggles waged by women workers has not only opened the eyes of these women to the need for militant action on the economic field, but has also served to awaken their political consciousness. They have come to recognize the role of the capitalist parties thru their state state administrations. They have also become acquainted with the role played by the socialist party, as expressed by its majority candidate, Norman Thomas, who, while the Gastonia leaders were on trail solidified himself with all the enemies of the workers.

These women have also learned that in all their struggle the Communist Party and its press has championed their interests, has helped to organize the defense of their prisoners, has guided and encouraged them. They have come to learn that not only in their struggles, but in every fight of the workers against the bosses the Communist Party fights for the interests of the workers. They have come to know that the Communist Party is the only political party of the working class that is really fighting against capitalism, that is unmasking the pacifist propoganda of the capitalists and their lackeys of the Socialist Party.

The time is fast approaching when the women workers, who have been used by the bosses as an instrument against the men workers, will assert themselves, and just as the women of Russia will take their place in the struggle to overthrow capitalism in U. S. A.

WORKING WOMEN!  
DEFEND THE SHOVIEET UNION!

### Women Workers!

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The National Women's Trade Union League, meeting at their National Convention at Washington, D. C., follows the treacherous A. F. of L. policy of betraying the work-

ers and refuses to listen to a delegation of striking textile working women and children from Gastonia. (Reprinted from Daily Worker)

## NATIONAL CONGRESS OF WORKING WOMEN HELD IN GERMANY

BERLIN (by mail).—The National Congress of the Working Women of Germany, held in Berlin, was attended by 408 delegates, representing over 209 factories. Housewives, home workers and agricultural workers were also represented. The international solidarity of working women found expression in the attendance of eight foreign delegates.

Workers came from textile, cigarette and shoe factories, from the large electrical work of Siemens and of A.E.G.—the German General Electric—from metal work factories, telephone works and department stores. Many sections of the German Reich were represented, including the important industrial centers of Saxony, the Saar, the Rhineland and the Ruhr.

Comrade Thaelmann greeted the Congress in the name of the Communist Party and of the prohibited Red Front Fighters League. He pointed out that the German bourgeoisie wants to throw the burden of the Young Plan onto the shoulders of the German workers and line up Germany in the anti-Soviet front. The organizing and lining up of the working women in the red class front is absolutely necessary to successfully carry through the fight against capitalism. The example of the Russian proletariat, which 12 years ago established the proletarian dictatorship, must be an inspiration to all proletarian women.

The main report was given by Comrade Lene Overlach. She pointed out that it is the aim of the capitalists to make the masses of working women more than ever, the cheapest and most willing objects of exploitation. With the aid of speed-up, the conveyor, which is to be moved faster and faster, the international pact of exploitation shall be carried through. She gave many examples of the methods which the capitalists use to secure their profits. She showed how the reformist trade union bureaucrats together with the socialist shop councils attempt to suppress all fights of the proletariat. The sharpened attack of capital must be answered by the organization of mass strikes for higher wages, the seven-hour day, against the government of hunger and war. Every blow which the

proletariat strikes in the shops is at the same time a blow against the preparations of imperialist governments, a step forward in the defense of the Soviet Union. But all struggles against the bourgeoisie and their social-fascist agents can only be carried on successfully with the help of the revolutionary trade unions and by mobilizing the working women in the revolutionary class front.

In the discussion many women workers spoke about their difficulties, their fights in the shops, about the treason of the reformist trade union leaders and the social-democrats. All laid stress on the necessity of carrying through the line of work proposed to the Congress.

The political and international importance of the Congress was evidenced by the presence of delegates from England, France, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Austria. The Russian delegate was permitted to cross the frontier only on the Monday after the conference. Nevertheless, a delegate of the Soviet Russian women workers was present. Greeted with the "International," her speech many times interrupted by tremendous applause, she brought the greetings of the Russian proletariat. She called upon the women workers to follow the example of the Russian proletariat. Only by revolutionary struggle can the proletariat free itself. "We bore the same chains as the German working women have still to bear," she stated. "When I compare the privations of the German working women high the conditions in the Soviet Union, I recognize how much progress we have made... The wish of your Russian working sisters is that you should follow the path along which Lenin led us."

The fighting call of the Congress, resolutions of protest against fascism, fighting greetings to the Russian women workers, to all political prisoners, were adopted unanimously. At the end of the Congress, a working women's delegation to the Soviet Union was elected.

LENIN SAID: "Without having the millions of women on their side, the workers will not be able to accomplish the revolution and the construction of a Communist Society."

## WOMEN WORKERS TORTURED IN YUGOSLAVIAN PRISONS

(A Letter from Yugoslavia)

The prisons and jails of Yugoslavia are filled to overflowing with class conscious workers. Many of the prisoners are murdered without trial. The rest are subjected to inhuman torture in the prisons.

One of the many women among them is Anka Buturatz, a 25-year-old garment worker from Zagreb. When she entered the ranks of the class conscious workers, it became her life work to rouse her class sisters and to draw them into the class fight and into the organization. For this "great crime" the hangmen in Yugoslavia have called this working girl to account. She is accused of distributing illegal literature and has been in Zagreb prison since April 8th.

For many months she has been subjected to all the methods of torture which have become the uniform system in all countries where the white terror prevails, either openly or under the cloak of a fascist regime: flogging, breaking of hands and feet, pricking with red hot needles, etc.

Besides this garment worker the women prisoners in the police jail of Zagreb, are the textile worker, Anka Grzetitch and her sister Rosa, both of whom have been most brutally beaten, Anka in particular. There are also the home worker, Yankes; the food-stuff worker, Yulka Russek; the student, Alma Sonnenschein, and the housewives Hermine Galogaza, Blau and Wirth.

All these have been pining for months in the police jail without proceedings having as yet been instituted against them. Only Katka, a printer, arrested last February, was handed over to the court after having been subjected to a long cross-examination and dragged about by the hair; she is still awaiting trial.

We working women of Yugoslavia expect and demand of our foreign sisters that they will support our fight by a mass protest against all the attacks of the hirelings of the Yugoslavian bourgeoisie. The women workers of Yugoslavia will not cease to fight against the military-fascist regime of tyranny and for their emancipation in the ranks of the revolutionary proletariat.

READ THE PAPER OF THE WORKING WOMEN!

## RADIUM POISONING KILLS WORKERS

Capitalist industry is a battlefield strewn with dead and maimed workers. Radium, the new industrial poison, adds its toll to the list. Radium poisoning has an even more terrible effect on women than on men. Many women workers employed at the U. S. radium plant at Newark and Orange, N. J., have died a horrible death from this cause. The tissues and bones rot away from the radium in the blood. Yet knowing this, women are taken on to work by the corporation without even a warning as to the danger. Five women workers are now doomed to slow death, there is no cure. When the victims came before the capitalist courts to fight their cases, \$800 a year was handed down to them as compensation!

Three children of two other women workers of the same plant are also doomed to suffer the same horrible torture. Employed at painting watch dials, all these workers were poisoned by touching the brush to their lips. The poisoning was passed on to their children before birth.

In Soviet Russia such things could not happen — workers are protected in all dangerous employment — women and children would not be permitted to work where there is risk to health and life — young workers especially are not employed where there is danger of disease or injury from the work. Big Business demands more and greater profits — it matters not how many workers are maimed or killed.

## Bosses' America a Contrast

IN AMERICA

1. There are 31 1/2 million child laborers. Thousands of New York children working as bootblacks and newsboys after and during school hours.

2. Workers and their children have nothing to say about the control and conditions in school.

3. Our parents slave 8 to 12 hours a day making bigger profits for the bosses.

IN SOVIET UNION

1. No children are allowed to work. All children whose parents don't earn enough are supported by the government and so can attend school.

2. Workers and their children have full control of their schools.

3. Workers only work a 7-hour day for themselves, for a workers government. There are no bosses in Soviet Russia.