

The Working Woman

NATIONAL WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT—COMMUNIST PARTY OF AMERICA

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May Day Call to the Working Women of America

May Day, 1929, finds the working class of America deep in the throes of a great struggle with the forces of capitalist imperialism. Millions of workers are walking the streets without a job, with starvation staring them in the face. Millions are slaving their lives away in mines, mills and workshops. Toiling under the lash of the capitalist speed-up, the workers of America and all other capitalist countries are driven beyond endurance in the race of their bosses to capture the world market. Wage-cuts, lengthening of hours, intensification of labor, the open-shop drive of the bosses to smash every attempt to organize and strike, police terror against militant workers, so the employers are conducting a bitter war of repression against the working class, which today in America is taking up the struggle against capitalist rationalization.

Women workers are in the forefront of these struggles of the working class in America. Today in the Southern textile strike as in New Bedford and Passaic they are fighting in the front ranks, braving police brutality and soldiers' bayonets, enduring starvation rather than the slavery of the mills, struggling against the speed-up and capitalist rationalization. The needle trades workers are building a new militant union in the face of the attacks of the bosses allied with the police and the right wing bureaucracy. The women millinery workers have resisted the efforts of their corrupt officials to destroy their union.

Everywhere in the mines and factory districts the women of the working class are fighting side by side with the men workers against the open shop drive and capitalist reaction.

Today on May Day, 1929, the great imperialist powers are rapidly mobilizing for another great war. War preparations are being carried on on a gigantic scale in all capitalist countries, feverish construction of new air fleets are greater navies, manufacture of munitions of war on an unprecedented scale, propaganda of nationalism and imperialism through every channel of capitalist influence, the schools, the churches, press, movies, radio.

While they are preparing for war the capitalist powers seek to delude the masses with gestures of peace. Peace pacts, arbitration treaties, leagues of nations, world courts, disarmament conferences, pacifist congresses, are heaped on each other in an effort to throw a smoke screen over the imperialist war preparations.

The great powers of the capitalist world are preparing for the inevitable conflict for world domination. They are at each other's throats in the struggle for profits, for colonies, for markets, for mastery of the sea, for financial control and exploitation of all countries. At the same time they stand together waiting to spring upon Soviet Russia and attempt to destroy the first Workers' Republic.

The imperialist war plans are maturing rap-

idly. The new American empire has thrown aside the mask. Wall Street only and brazenly dictates to Washington and the world. Morgan, Lamont, Morrow, Young, all of the house of Morgan, represent Wall Street and Washington all over the world today, in China, in Japan, Mexico and Europe, and extend the rule of the mailed fist and the Yankee dollar in every corner of the world.

May Day, 1929, sends out a call especially to the women of the working class, to millions of toiling women, slaving for a mere pittance in the factories and workshops of America, borne down by poverty and drudgery in the home. Working women are the worst sufferers under capitalist imperialism. They are the cheap and easy subjects of exploitation in capitalist mass production with its speed-up, low wages and long hours. They toil the longest hours for the lowest pay. They work in the greatest numbers in the most dangerous industry and others especially subject to capitalist rationalization. They are being driven from the heavy industry to replace men workers. At a time of war they are forced to man the factories and produce the munitions and materials of war.

Mothers as well as workers, the working women in America today along with the rest of the working class, must see how they can best meet the situation of strike or unemploy-

May Day Call to Working Women of America

(Continued from page 1)

In the hideous slums that capitalism gives the working class for a home, must see them driven from the factories and conscripted for capitalist wars. The women of the working class suffer as mothers as well as workers from the hideous exploitation of capitalism, the high cost of living, starvation wages, and from war, the inevitable accompaniment of capitalist imperialism.

The imperialists today are trying to delude the women workers with false hopes of peace. Through the schools, the churches, and the pacifist women's organizations they try to make working women believe that peace is possible and that the capitalist world is striving for peace. This hollow sham must be exposed by working women. They must organize for a bitter and determined struggle against the war danger, must penetrate the workshops and the homes with the message of the class struggle, must rouse the masses of the working women to a realization of the impending danger and a determination to fight it.

Working women must organize, must build the new unions, must build nuclei in the factories and plants manufacturing war material, must prepare for the moment when they are called to man the factories in war-time, must prepare side by side with the men workers to crush the hideous capitalist system under its own war machine, and build a new workers' society free from war and exploitation.

On May Day, 1929, working women must rally to the banner of the Communist International, the world organization of the working class, which is the only force able to meet and fight against world imperialism and world war. American working women! Join the Communist International, born out of the last world war to organize the working class against the next world war. Join its American section, the Communist Party of the U.S.A., leader in all the struggles of the workers and of working women.

Fight together with the men and women workers of other countries against the international attack upon the working class, against the speed-up and long hours, against low wages and the high cost of living, against the strike-breaking and union-smashing schemes of the employers, against the white terror and the imperialist war preparations. Fight against the misleaders of labor, against the leaders of the A. F. of L. and the Women's Trade Union League, against the Socialist Party, all of which, like their ilk in other countries, are the enemies and betrayers of the revolutionary labor movement.

Working women of America! On May Day, 1929, stand shoulder to shoulder with the toiling masses of women workers in all other capitalist countries, with the women of the colonial lands Nicaragua, Mexico, China crushed under the heel of Yankee imperialism, in a common struggle against capitalist imperialism.

March side by side with the working women of the Soviet Union, your victorious sisters, who have freed themselves from the yoke of capitalism through their glorious revolution and are building a new workers' society. Working women! Defend the Soviet Union! Defend working women and children of Soviet Russia from the war plots of the imperialists.

Forward, March! on May Day!
With tools! Come out of the factories! Show strength and fighting spirit!

For the emancipation of the working class!
For the destruction of the capitalist system, its exploitation, and its wars!

Long live the Soviet Union!

Long live the union of the workers and peasants
throughout all over the world!

OFFICE OF THE U. S. A.,
LABOR DEPARTMENT.

Poyntz, Secretary.

Police Try to Break Food Strike



WOMEN TO FOREFRONT IN CAFETERIA STRIKE

Most Exploited Section of Food Workers

The women workers are without doubt the most exploited section of the restaurant and cafeteria workers. They are forced to work at a much lower rate of pay and under most miserable conditions. Women are replacing men workers to a very great extent, taking the places of counter-men and bus boys as well as waiters. While the men receive from 35 to 40 cents per hour the women are paid less than half of that amount and are forced to work longer hours into the bargain.

The wages and rotten conditions of the waitresses and counter and bus girls have become traditional. Because of the long hours on their feet, the constant contact with dirty dishes and sloppy water, poor food (they are required to eat the kitchen left-overs) and the irregularity in the eating, they are subject to all sorts of occupational diseases. A recent investigation by health authorities showed that a very big percentage of waitresses and counter and bus girls suffer from flat feet, varicose veins, permanently swollen hands and feet, various disturbances of the sexual organs (falling womb, etc.), to say nothing of the many digestive disorders. More than half of all waitresses and counter and bus girls suffer from anemia.

Because of the extremely low wages they receive their occupation also depends upon their catering to the good will and wishes of the patrons for tips to make up for the deficiency in the pay checks. This is very humiliating and degrading to these workers who would rather get a decent living wage each week for their work instead of depending upon this system of tipping. Others, in order to make ends meet, must resort to other means, such as going to dance halls and even are forced to stoop to prostitution. IS IT ANY WONDER THEY HAVE COME OUT ON STRIKE AND ARE THE MOST MILITANT OF ALL STRIKERS?

In every phase of strike activity the women strikers are in the forefront—staunchly marching on the picket lines, engaging in encounters with scabs, the bosses, thugs and the police, urging workers not to patronize struck cafeterias, and in all ways militantly keeping up the spirits and morale of the men workers. In quite a number of cases we find that both husband and wife are out on strike, since both of them had to work in the restaurants and cafeterias in order to eke out their miserable wages and to make ends meet.

HIGH RENTS, VILE HOUSES IS NEGRO'S LOT IN HARLEM

By Grace Lamb

The last vestige of the Emergency Rent laws disappears on June first, and with it the last shadow of protection against greedy landlords. On December 1, 1928, all protection was withdrawn from the tenants living in flats renting from \$10 per room and over. The final abolition of the entire Emergency Rent Law this month makes all tenants subject to rent raises regardless of the price per room. No group of tenants will be so hard hit by this legislation as the poorer tenants of Harlem, especially the crowded Negro population. Municipal judges are showing little mercy toward the tenants from whom protection was removed last December. When the tenants receive rent raises, which they are unable to pay and are dispossessed for this reason, the common expression of the judges to the tenants is "Pay your rent or move!"

Rent exploitation is at its worst in Harlem, where the poorest paid workers live and where a great negro population of hundreds of thousands is crowded together in Ghetto conditions of overcrowding poor housing and bad sanitation due to the race discrimination which prevents them from expanding into other districts and brings about terrible conditions of housing congestion and exorbitant rents. This strain falls heavily upon the Negro mothers and wives who must of necessity supplement their husbands' small pay by their own hard earnings. These women of the working class have borne the hardship of unsanitary housing conditions. Dumbwaiter service has often been lacking for years. They have had to live in apartments that were firetraps with wooden stairways, often lacking fire escapes. They have suffered all manner of housing injustice, such as lack of repairs, poor heat and no hot water. Now they have added to their burdens the hardship of higher rents and landlord insolence without protection.

It is time that all tenants of the working class, negro and white, should realize that they cannot expect relief from capitalist legislators and courts. Only their own organized power as workers, and that alone can aid them. The capitalist judges interpret and exercise the law for the benefit of their masters and exploiters and landlords. Working class tenants must build their own tenants' organizations and fight for their rights as they have done in the Harlem Tenants League, in which negro and white workers fight together against the capitalist landlords.

More than 150 women have come out on strike since the first day, taking the places of their arrested and beaten fellow-union men on the picket lines. They will be found in front of the Marvin on 39th St., the Consolidated on 36th and 7th Ave., the Fanray, Monroe, Sunray, Brunswick—in short any "struck" cafeteria within the area of 6th and 9th Aves., from 18th to 39th Streets. As fast as the police arrest them, others are found to take their places and carry the placards.

The percentage of women arrested is very high, from 10 to 15 being locked up daily. In the recent arrests on Monday, April 15th, for example, out of a total of 45 arrests, 14 were women.

The women are determined that not one of them will go back to work under the old conditions of slavery and degradation. Included among the general Union demands will be found special demands for women-workers, such as EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. NO DISCRIMINATION. SANITARY CONDITIONS IN THE KITCHENS, LOCKERS AND TOILETS. UNIFORMS TO BE FURNISHED AND LAUNDERED BY THE BOSSES. SPECIAL REST PERIODS FOR WOMEN WORKERS.

With these slogans, with militant leaders and fighters, with the fine show of solidarity displayed among the women and men, with the women workers solidly arrayed behind the Union—THE STRIKE MUST BE WON! And the working women of all industries throughout New York are pledged to work to that end and in all ways help win the strike. SPREAD THE STRIKE! ON TO VICTORY!

MILLINERY WORKERS OF LOCAL 43 FIGHT RIGHT WING UNION WRECKERS

By S. Croll

The Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union is holding its national convention in May. The leaders and machine in control of this union are of the same reactionary character as that of the American Federation of Labor. Of the tens of thousands of women who are employed in the millinery industry the union never made any efforts to organize them. Not until the millinery workers, for the most part young girls, driven to action by intolerable conditions, took things into their own hands and organized themselves into Local 43, was there any organization of the millinery hand workers. The local quickly grew from a handful of 300 to 4,000 members. But once the local was on its feet and showed itself to be a militant body fighting to maintain their organization for continuously better working conditions, which meant naturally a real not a pretended fight against the bosses; which meant solidarity with other workers as well as developing class consciousness on the part of the membership, the International began to devise ways and means for breaking up the local. The same holds true for the cap makers of Boston, and the cap makers of Local 25 of Chicago.

The answer of the whole membership of Local 43 to the vicious attack of President Zaritsky and his administration was a determined one in favor of the Left wing leadership and policies and the General Executive Board expelled the local from the International. This was in absolute violation of the International's constitution. Far from bullying Local 43 or other expelled members into accepting the reactionary policies of the International's leadership or destroying the local, the net result has been growing class-consciousness on the part of these workers and an even clearer understanding of the traitorous role being played by the Zaritsky administration. The struggle has taught thousands of women workers belonging to Local 43 what the differences are between Right and Left wing leadership. They took up the fight for their principles and demands with greater determination than ever. This can be seen from the marked interest and great activity of the whole membership in the discussion of the local's platform in connection with the convention and election of delegates to it. Delegates are being elected as the local does not recognize its expulsion by the GEB, and is appealing that action to the national convention.

However, the membership of Local 43 has no illusions as to the possibility of being reinstated. This could clearly be seen from the nature of the many speeches made by rank and file members at the general membership meeting held early in April, when the policy of the delegates later to be elected by a referendum vote was discussed. It is as clear as day that the Zaritsky controlled convention is not going to re-admit Local 43 or

"Efficiency" Plan Means Wage Cut

In our department where many girls work tying pencils together to get them ready for shipment, we have a new system of working put over on us.

We were formerly getting \$18 to \$20 each week by working our hardest day. The bosses of the Eagle Pencil Co. sent in their efficiency expert to look this department over.

After many days of observation he decided that we try his new method for a week or two and see how we liked it.

The result was as usual.

In our next pay girls received as low as \$8 for a week. On that pay-day five of our girls quit. The next week two more quit.

NOTE: The girls in this department are back on their old way of working now, but those seven girls are gone. A GIRL WORKER.

the other expelled members as long as the demands of Local 43, which the delegates are pledged to fight for without compromise, are as follows:

1. Reinstatement of Local 43 and all militant workers.
2. Reorganization of the unorganized cap and millinery workers.
3. For the maintenance of the week system.
4. Forty-hour week.
5. For the Shop Delegate System.
6. For unity of all cap and millinery workers with the needle trades union.

The attempt of the Right wing to destroy the union and the struggle against this has won the unanimous support of Local 43's membership for the sixth of its demands: "For unity of all cap and millinery workers with the new Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union." The Zaritsky machine is making a few frantic last minute efforts, before the convention, to intimidate Local 43 members. It organized an armed attack on the downtown office of Local 43, beating and wounding of several girls and having 18 of them arrested; raiding the office and breaking its windows. If the Right wing Local 24 hoped to "win" the support of women workers Local 43 they have only succeeded in exposing themselves all the more as servants of the capitalists. The actions of Local 24 are teaching the millinery workers to loathe Right wingers and to fight them as allies of the bosses.

ROBOTS

Bang, cling, bang—just a bell calling one of the automatons out of her seat across the room, up a flight of stairs—into another room over to a desk—into a chair—pencil in hand—notebook ready—drone of a monotonous voice—one, two, three, ten letters—all alike—"That will do. . ." down the stairs—over to the typewriter—pound, pound, pound.

Bang, cling, bang—the bell against—scraping of twenty-five chairs—hats on, coats on—rush to the time clock—two minutes after twelve on the card—out to lunch—sandwich and coffee—walk around the block—hurry—back to the grind—must not be late—will be docked—monotonous pound, pound, pound—voice "In reply to your letter of the . . . inst. I beg to inform you that the patterns will be sent within a few days. . ." Thirty, forty, of the same letters every day—time clock every day—from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. every day—the pounding of the twenty-five typewriters every day—the evil eye of the forelady who glares every time you leave your seat to go to the ladies' room and should you do it often you will surely be reprimanded—in return for this work the typewriter robots are paid the munificent sum of 12 a week—but if they should happen to turn out more than the required sum of letters per day—40—they may get a \$2 raise. TILLIE.

To Zaritsky and His Gang

From a Millinery Worker

We are wise to you Zaritsky.
We know your policies are fake.
The only thing that you are after
Is the money to take.

You say you want amalgamation,
That's a mask to hide the dirt.
You would lead us to destruction—
You the workers want to hurt.

Tell me, just how often
Have you shared the workers' fight?
Have you ever tried to get
Into their heads a ray of light?

No and no again! I'll say
We won't follow you! No thanks!
Together we will fight with those
Who help our striking, struggling ranks.

A MEMBER OF LOCAL NO. 43

MAY DAY FINDS WOMEN IN THICK OF STRUGGLE

By Rose Wortis

May 1st, 1929, turns a new page in the history of women workers of this country. The inter class war raging in all parts of the world reached out to the United States—the world capitalism—where the women worker most exploited section of the working class, coming out in open revolt against the rationalization speed-up system introduced by the capitalists of this country in order to compete more effectively with the European countries for world markets.

For years the bureaucracy of the American Federation of Labor, deaf to the cry of organization of the unskilled workers, has maintained that women workers are not responsive to trade unionism. For years they have given mere lip service to the question of organizing women on the occasions of their conventions. The attempts of the progressives to organize the unorganized, particularly the women workers, were met with expulsions and persecutions. To show some pretense of doing organization work among women, they have occasionally appointed one of their women lobbyists as organizer, whose chief activities were lobbying in the capitalist legislative houses.

The senile Women's Trade Union League, the organization which was to have served as the vehicle for organizing the unorganized women, has not even attempted to deal with the problems confronting the millions of women workers and is today obsolete.

The mass revolt of women workers in the textile industry in the North as well as the South, in Passaic and New Bedford, the present South Carolina revolt; the militant struggles of the dressmakers, the millinery workers and the other women in the needle trades, the strike of the cafeteria workers, and the spontaneous unorganized revolts of women in almost every other trade every section of the country, give the lie to contention of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy that women do not respond to trade union organization.

The women workers of this country are awakening and are beginning to realize that their salvation from industrial slavery lies only in organization, and that only the Left wing in the trade union movement is making a real effort to lead them in the struggle for better conditions. In the recent strike of the dressmakers conducted by the new Industrial Union, in the struggles of the textile and mining industries, the women workers, under the leadership of the new unions, have proven to be the most militant and persistent fighters. The new unions, organized on the basis of class struggle and pledged to the organization of the great mass of the unorganized workers, have given new hope to these millions of exploited women workers and have shown them the possibilities for freeing themselves from the yoke of slavery.

The coming Trade-Union-Unity-Conference in Cleveland will see many women workers, fresh from the battlefields, sitting side by side with the men workers and deliberating on the present problems confronting the entire working class. Together with the men they will take their place in the great struggle against exploitation, against the impending imperialist war, against the open shop and speed-up system, and the treacherous bureaucracy of the American Federation of Labor, which has become an adjunct to the capitalist class.

On May 1st, 1929, all class-conscious women will take heart in their past accomplishments and will prepare themselves for greater struggles, until such time when the women of the United States, just as the women workers of Russia, will have gained real equality, real freedom, only possible under a government of workers.

Women Mill Workers In South Revolt

GIRLS ON NIGHT SHIFT WORK ELEVEN HOURS IN GASTONIA TEXTILE MILLS

By Grace Hutchins

NEW YORK—Thin, tired, hungry-looking, strikers from the Loray Mill of Gastonia, N. C., arrived in New York to tell their story before the strikers of the North.

Cecil Burger, a boy who looked hardly more than 12 years old, gave his age as 17. He is stunted from lack of food. He said he had already worked in the mills more than two years as a doffer and now earns \$13 a week, above the average, but sometimes works 72 hours in six days.

The North Carolina law against child labor under 14 is a joke, the strikers told the northern workers. "The boss wants the child to work. The father and the mother need his wages as quick as they can get it, to help the family. It's easy to swear that the child is 14 when he's only 11 or 12. At least a third of the Loray mill workers are children under 16 and many of them are under 14. There's been no union till the National Textile Workers came to enforce any law."

Dewey Martin, tall but pale and hollow-cheeked, spoke for the strikers in the low voice of a man who has no strength left after long hours of standing at the machines. He said he was 29 years old, but looked older. He has worked in the mills for six years, and now earns \$21.95 for a week of 60 hours. "But that is very high" he explained. "Most workers get half that much."

Iva Fullbright, one of the two women strikers who come North, told of working in the mills nearly 10 years to support three children. Her husband is dead. She works more than 60 hours a week for \$12.90. Her daughter, Bonnie, earns \$12 a week on a speed-up piece rate. "Girls on the night shift work 11 hours," she stated. "And the mill bosses of course are fighting against any law to stop night work or to make it shorter."

"The pay check doesn't all come to us," went on Iva Fullbright. "They take out \$1.50 a week for the rent of a three-room company house. Then they take out 50 cents or more a week for lights, and \$2.00 for coal. The coupon books we have to use are good only at the company store, and they take the money for those out of the check. Sometime there isn't any money at all left in the pay envelope."

"Often we have no food in the house over Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The coupon books are sold on Tuesday. The card is often all used up by Saturday, and then we don't get much to eat for those three days. We eat mostly potatoes and cabbages, salt pork and grits."

Violet Jones, 18 years old, has already worked five years, 60 hours a week, as a creel warper in the mills. Her weekly wage of \$9 is the highest paid in her department, she said. Many of the workers earn only \$6, \$7 or \$8 a week. Violet is so strong for solidarity in the strike that she left her husband because he was one of the few workers who did not come out on strike with the others.

A relief worker since the strike began, Iva Fullbright told of the strikers' houses she had seen. "Most of the workers had no food at all. Sometimes three families were trying to live in a four-room company house. Children could not go to school, because they had no shoes or real clothes. They were going bare-foot all winter. Even from the poor company houses strikers and their families are to be driven out because they have dared to strike for more food."

"A mother, before or after her baby is born, is always put on piece work," explained the two women strikers. "Then if she has to lose time, the boss doesn't lose anything. It comes out of the mother's pay envelope." When told of the Russian Soviet Union and its care for mothers and babies, the two Southern workers could hardly believe that such a workers' government, aiming to care for the workers' health, already existed in the world.

A Typical Textile Workers' Family



"Down With Slavery!" Say Thou



CALL FOR THE TRADE UNION CONVENTION

Dear Comrades:—

The National Committee of the Trade Union Educational League hereby calls for the election of delegates to constitute the TRADE UNION UNITY CONVENTION, to meet in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, at 10 a. m., on June 1st, 1929, and to conclude on June 2nd.

Capitalist rationalization, with its merciless ever-increasing speed-up system, is making conditions intolerable for larger and larger masses of workers, especially in the highly mechanized industries. Increasing productivity, far from raising the living standards of the workers, is creating permanent mass unemployment, with further intensified speed-up of those remaining in the shops, with further wage-cuts and intensified exploitation generally. The capitalist class is intensifying its campaign of breaking down all effective working class organizations in order to bring through its open shop policy. With smothering forces, American capitalism is pouring from its factories a tremendous volume of commodities, beyond the limits of the domestic market, which is shrinking because of the decreasing purchasing power of the toiling masses, foreign markets are being developed at a forced pace to absorb the increased output, but there also the limits of expansion are set by the barriers of rival capitalist powers and by the growing revolt of the subject peoples against the ruthless exploitation of American imperialism.

Thus capitalist rationalization, marching over the bodies of the masses of American workers reaching out to the further subjugation of the world markets, comes to the limit of possible expansion. American capitalism has become inextricably entangled in the world capitalist crisis. From this impasse there is no outlet for capitalist powers except in WAR:—war, first of all, of the capitalist powers against the Soviet Union, and second, between the imperialist powers themselves. The present period, therefore, for the working class is primarily one of STRUGGLE AGAINST THE WAR DANGER AND AGAINST CAPITALIST RATIONALIZATION.

The American Federation of Labor has thoroughly exposed its role as a social reformist and social-imperialist organization, that is as an agency within the working class for the capitalist class to support the policies of capitalist rationalization and preparations for imperialist war. The A. F. of L. with its ever-narrowing base of corrupt bureaucracy and obsolete craft-forms, is the enemy of the struggle of the workers. It is not to organize and lead the workers in struggle, but instead to disorganize and demoralize especially masses of unskilled and semi-skilled and to co-operate with employers and capitalist parties and government through the so-called partisan policy in order to keep these workers in continued subjection. The complete denial of union democracy, the mass expulsions of workers, the open strike-breaking by the textile and needle workers, etc., are o

Against Slave Conditions—Help Them Win

Men, Women Strikers in South



WOMEN GREATEST SUFFERERS IN STRIKE—SEND RELIEF AT ONCE

By Rose Pastor Stokes

For a long time the South was a sore spot in the textile industry. The low standard of living, the long hours, the low wages, and child labor were the factors that attracted the textile barons to move one-half of the textile industry to the South. The many militant struggles in recent years of the Northern textile workers were frequently influenced by this fact. It is well-known that women and girls constitute the biggest percentage of those employed in the textile industry. The present struggle of the ten thousand Southern textile strikers must concern the entire working class, and especially the working class women. In North and South Carolina ten thousand textile workers, the majority of whom are women, are now fighting for their right to live.

The greatest sufferers are the women. They carry the burden of homes and children in addition to labor in the mills. They are compelled to work night and day for less than ten dollars a week. They are forced to send their children to sweat in the mills at an age when they should be in school. They are set before sixty-four, seventy-two, and sometimes as high as ninety-six looms, and must operate them all.

Against this terrible slavery they have risen in revolt. But to the bloody textile barons nothing matters but profits. The bosses' government has sent state troops to fight the strikers. The bosses tried to "rope" the mills, but militant strikers, mostly women, defeated the company police and broke the ropes. You have seen all this on the front pages of the bosses' press as well as in the papers of the workers. Women workers are defying the state troopers. Many women strikers have been thrown into jail. Only the other day a masked gang, protected by the police, robbed the relief store, in Gastonia, established by the Workers' International Relief. They tore down

the building of the National Textile Workers Union, and they jailed fifteen strikers. They know the textile barons in Gastonia are trying to break the strike. And yet the strikers stand firm. Women and men fight gamely for a new militant union in the textile industry of this country.

In answer to the brutal attacks of the bosses the Workers' International Relief has rushed new aid to Gastonia. The Workers' International Relief will fight to the last ditch for the right to distribute relief to the Southern textile strikers. "A NEW RELIEF STORE IN GASTONIA!" This is the slogan of the W. I. R.

Fellow women workers! The struggle of the Southern textile strikers is YOUR struggle. If they win in the South, it will be easier for you to maintain the slightly higher wage that you have achieved through many years of bitter struggle. THEY ARE FIGHTING YOUR FIGHT AND THE FIGHT OF THE ENTIRE WORKING CLASS.

They plead for relief—these thousands upon thousands of Southern textile workers. Their children are hungry and they are facing starvation.

This Strike Is Your Strike

As working class women we must do our share! To the rescue of the textile strikers of Gastonia! Stand by the strikers in their struggle for a real fighting union! Help to give them bread! Go to the headquarters of your Workers' International Relief—become an active worker. You can help to spread the story of this heroic struggle. You can get every worker, man or woman to help feed the strikers and their children. All working class women should know about this strike.

Don't Delay—Act!!!

COLLECT MONEY EVERYWHERE—at picnics, outings, affairs, tag days, meetings, house-to-house, neighbors!

UNION UNITY CLEVELAND, JUNE 1-2

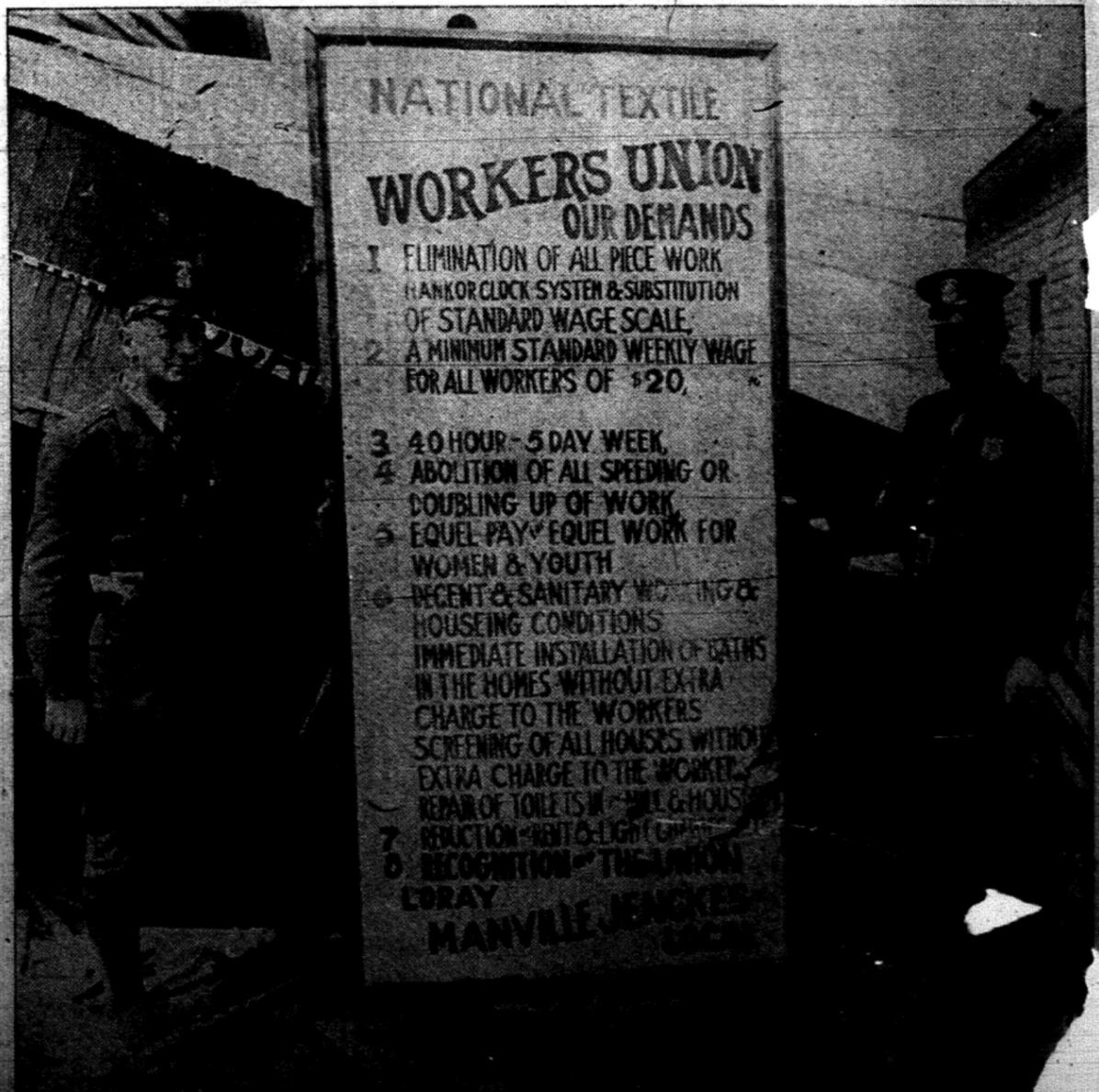
Examples of the A. F. of L. role in the present period. The coming convention will take all necessary measures to mobilize the left wing in the old unions for energetic struggle against the bureaucracy and to win the membership for policies of militant class struggle.

The masses of unorganized workers, in America as in all other capitalist countries, under the pressure of speed-up and wage-cuts, are seething with discontent. Already this is breaking out into hundreds of small, spontaneous, unorganized movements, fighting against the speed-up, against wage-cuts, for a shorter working day, and other demands. Experience has proven once for all, that any attempt to lead these masses into the unions of the A. F. of L., under the rule of the corrupt bureaucracy, would result in dissipating these movements and preventing any effective organization. The experience of Passaic, where a great union of 10,000 members was deliberately destroyed by the A. F. of L., and the criminal activities of the bureaucrats which destroyed the great miners union are typical. These workers in the unorganized industries must have their own Trade Union organizations, controlled by the masses, which can be made permanent instruments of struggle. In all capitalist countries such developments are taking place, being especially acute in America, where the situation requires the formation of new unions, based on the class struggle, in open warfare with the Greens and Wolls of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy. Already these new unions (Mining, Textile and Needle Workers) have been born in the struggle of the unorganized masses and the left wing in the old unions against the combined forces of the bureaucrats, employers and state power. These new unions, in their short period of existence, have already demonstrated that they are the instruments of struggle of the unorganized workers and are capable of fighting for the interests of the workers. These unions have developed out of the long struggles by the T. U. E. L. against the corrupt A. F. of L. leadership and against the employers. They indicate the path which the revolutionary trade union movement will have to follow in the organization of the unorganized workers. The organization of these three unions is connected up with the general struggle on an international scale of the unorganized workers against the treacherous social-reformist and reactionary trade-union leaders and imperialism. On the order of the day stands a great campaign for the ORGANIZATION OF THE UNORGANIZED INTO NEW AND MILITANT UNIONS.

Such a campaign, concentrating especially upon the key industries, also requires special attention to the great numbers of women and youth workers, who are subject to exceptional exploitation, and who have always been neglected and despised by the A. F. of L. officials. Special attention must be given to steel, oil, metal mining,

(Continued on page 6)

All That Was Left When Masked Thugs Demolished Union Office



NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION OUR DEMANDS

1. ELIMINATION OF ALL PIECE WORK (HANK OR CLOCK SYSTEM) & SUBSTITUTION OF STANDARD WAGE SCALE.
 2. A MINIMUM STANDARD WEEKLY WAGE FOR ALL WORKERS OF \$20.
 3. 40 HOUR - 5 DAY WEEK.
 4. ABOLITION OF ALL SPEEDING OR DOUBLING UP OF WORK.
 5. EQUAL PAY - EQUAL WORK FOR WOMEN & YOUTH.
 6. DECENT & SANITARY HOUSING & HOUSEING CONDITIONS. IMMEDIATE INSTALLATION OF BATHS IN THE HOMES WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE TO THE WORKERS. SCREENING OF ALL HOUSES WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE TO THE WORKERS. REPAIR OF TOILETS IN - MIL & HOUSES.
 7. REACTION - BIRTHS - LIGHT
 8. RECOGNITION - THE UNION
- LORAY
MANVILLE

CALL FOR TRADE UNION UNITY CONVENTION JUNE 1

(Continued from page 5)

in manufacturing, food, marine transport, lumber, textile, automobile, etc., which are practically unorganized.

The true nature of the A. F. of L. and its social-reformism, is shown up sharply by its neglect and exclusion from the trade unions of the Negro workers, who are the most exploited and oppressed of the American working class. It is therefore a primary duty of the coming convention to take up in most serious fashion the task of ORGANIZATION OF THE NEGRO WORKERS. The convention must put forth a program in all labor organizations of struggle for complete equality of negroes. The Negro workers must be united with the white workers in new unions; where necessary special unions must be built for that purpose; and the Negro masses brought organically into the trade union movement.

The convention will also have the task of exposing the fake "progressives" who, under the mask of "opposition" to Green, Woll and Co., actually serve as the most effective tools of bureaucracy. The Socialist Party, the party of the ever-reverend Norman Thomas and "Burns Coal Co." flunkies, as well as the "progressive group" of the A. F. of L., have been especially energetic in making their attack against the new unions and against the left wing, shielding the reactionary officialdom behind their pseudo-left phrases. The working masses will find their most insidious enemies precisely among these elements. The convention must find the most effective means to expose and defeat them.

The convention will have the task of formulating plans of battle against a cruel and powerful enemy, American capitalism. This calls for a thorough examination of the question of STRIKE STRATEGY, evaluating past experiences, eliminating mistakes and incorrect policies, and laying the basis for the most powerful strike action by the new unions and in the strikes of the unorganized from which in many cases the unions will arise, as well as the establishment of independent left-wing leadership in mass strikes of the old unions.

The convention will deal with the problem of SOCIAL INSURANCE. In America, the classical land of capitalist "prosperity," the workers suffer most from unemployment, from disability resulting from the speed-up and accidents, and from old-age retirement which comes soon after the age of 40 years, due to the intense speed at which the workers are driven. And precisely in America where the suffering from these evils is intense, there is no social relief, no social insurance whatever, in striking contrast with the wide system of social insurance and protection afforded by the Soviet Union, which is only beginning its industrial development, but which is ruled by the working class. The problem of social insurance is therefore very important for the coming convention.

International relations, connection with the class-struggle trade unions of other lands, will be a central point of the coming Congress. The A. F. of L. has become the model and inspiration of social-reformist trade-unionism throughout the world, with its program of class-collaboration, of unity with the employers and war against the masses of semi-skilled and unskilled workers, of national and international splitting of the working class. The T. U. E. L., the American section of the Red International of Labor Unions, advances the platform of INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION UNITY. It supports and participates in the LATIN-AMERICAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION, and in the PAN-PACIFIC TRADE UNION SECRETARIAT, which unite the labor movement of the colonial and semi-colonial countries with the class-struggle trade unions in the imperialist lands. The Congress will have the task of utilizing international experience, such as the recent Ruhr struggle, the Lodz strike, and the movement of the French miners, and of making more concrete and practical the American participation in the international labor movement, and advancing the program of international unity.

WOMEN NEEDLE TRADES WORKERS AMONG THE MOST MILITANT FIGHTERS

By Rose Wortis

The Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, organized three months ago after many years of bitter struggle against the treacheries of the reactionary officialdom of the American Federation of Labor, has come to the forefront and fought its first successful battle in the dress trade, which employed a large percentage of women workers.

Just as in 1909 when the waist and dressmakers, the vast majority of whom were women, were the first to go out on strike and give the signal for the revolt of the workers against the sweatshop system in the other branches of the needle trades, resulting in the birth of the old needle trades unions, so in 1929 the dressmakers were again the pioneers to blaze the path for the new Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. Just as in 1909 the old union fought its first battle in the dress trade, the stronghold of women workers, so did the new union in 1929 choose as its first battle ground this section of the industry which employs the largest portion of women workers.

The dressmakers were confronted with a great task. On the success of the dress strike depended to a very large extent the future of the new union. The bosses and the company union recognized the importance of this first open struggle undertaken by the new Union and they left no stone unturned in their vain attempt to break the strike. But just as in 1909, the dressmakers stood the acid test.

At the call of the new Union, ten thousand workers—Jews, Italians, Americans, white and negro—responded to the strike and marched in solid ranks to the halls. Those who had doubted stood in awe at the sight of these marching ranks. The leaders of the company union and the bosses were disheartened and could no longer sneer and ridicule the idea of a general strike in the dress trade. It was a living fact which foretold the coming day when the ten thousand will be swelled by additional thousands, and when the sweat-shop system, maintained by the bosses and the company union, will be wiped out and union conditions once more established in the trade.

It was not an easy job to carry through the strike of the dressmakers. The chaos that existed in the trade throughout the two years of the vicious attack on the Union by the unholy alliance of the bosses, the old officialdom, the gangsters, the police, and the courts, had had its demoralizing effect on the minds of the workers. The enemies of the new union had for weeks in advance mobilized all their forces. Schlesinger, the chief of the company union, openly invited and secured the aid of the police in his strike-breaking activities. The Central Trades and Labor Council, which

Trade Union Unity on a national and industrial scale, as well as locally, creates another series of problems. The Congress must formulate policies to this end, based upon the creation of ONE COMMON TRADE UNION CENTER FOR ALL-CLASS STRUGGLE ORGANIZATIONS, which shall unite all new unions, revolutionary minorities in the old unions, and all movements for organizing the unorganized, shop committees, etc., under a single direction. It must work out the concrete forms of the movement for the UNITED FRONT FROM BELOW, among the workers in the shops, for joint struggles for common aims on the basis of industrial unionism and shop committees.

All economic organizations of workers, standing upon the basis of the class struggle, and agreeing with the objects of this call, are invited to elect delegates to the TRADE UNION UNITY CONVENTION.

Elect your delegate! Agitate for the Unity Convention!

First fight against wage-cuts against the speed-up, and for shorter hours!

Fight against the social-imperialist A. F. of L. bureaucracy!

Fight for social insurance, against unemployment, disability and old age!

Organize the unorganized into new unions!

Build the new Trade Union Center!

For International Trade Union Unity!

pretends to represent the labor movement of New York City, protested that the violence of the police was insufficient and called upon them to intensify their brutality against the strikers. The bosses, realizing the menace of a strong dressmakers union, resorted to every possible means to break the strike of the dressmakers.

But these efforts of the combined forces of the enemy failed. The onslaughts of the police were met with mass picketing demonstrations by the strikers, in which the women's battalion took a leading part. The wholesale arrests, fines and imprisonment were met with a spirit of defiance and failed to terrorize the strikers. No sooner than they left the prison cells, they were out on the picket line again, fighting for their rights, fighting for their freedom from the sweat-shop system. The ranks of the strikers were swelled by the wives and women folk of the men strikers who contributed their share to this historic struggle in the needle trades.

The women dressmakers did not merely distinguish themselves for bravery on the picket line. The women dressmakers, as the advance section of the women workers, took an active part in the strike leadership. They helped to formulate the policies of the Union and participated in great numbers on the General Strike Committee, the Executive Board of the General Strike Committee, on the various Sub-Committees, were hall chairmen and hall secretaries and were found generally capable and efficient, thus proving more clearly than any amount of propaganda that the women workers once they are awakened to their responsibilities to their fellow workers can fight as well as men for the interests of their class.

The 1929 strike of the dressmakers, though successful, has not as yet accomplished the organization of the dress trade. There are still thousands of workers who are suffering under the sweat-shop system, undermining the conditions of those workers who had fought heroically in the strike. However, the dressmakers strike laid the foundation for a strong union and gave courage not only to the workers in the dress trade, but to the workers in other branches of the industry. The cloakmakers and the furriers inspired by the example of the dressmakers, are now preparing for a decisive struggle to re-establish their union. Already the women fur workers are on the job mobilizing their forces not only for special work among the women of the trade, but for active participation in the general struggle.

In the Amalgamated Clothing Workers the women workers, though small in numbers, are taking a leading part in the struggle against the bureaucracy and the bosses. Anna Fox, having been chosen as the first victim by the reactionary Hillman machine, was thrown off her job because of her militant struggle against the speed-up system and the terrorism of the amalgamated clique.

In the Cap and Millinery Workers Union, Local 43, composed exclusively of women, is the most active and militant local in the entire International. The local has survived the treacherous attacks of this officialdom and the bosses and is today preparing to make a fight for its reinstatement at the coming convention of the Cap and Millinery Workers Union. The old officialdom of this union, which is pledged to a policy of hearty co-operation with the bosses against the workers, will no doubt approve the expulsion of Local 43 and before long the millinery workers will become an integral part of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, and as a result of their experiences in their struggle for the past two years will add a vital force to the growing strength of the Industrial Union.

Everywhere, in all branches of the needle trades, in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc., the activities of the women are an important factor in the work and leadership of the new Union.

The accomplishments of the women in the needle trades can and should serve as an inspiring example to the women in the other industries to assume their rightful place in the ranks of the fighters for freedom of all workers from capitalist exploitation.

For the Defense of the Workers' and Peasants' Republic!



No "Gastonia" Here! Woman Textile Worker Writes of Conditions in Soviet Union Mills

Letter from the Working Women Correspondent
Kastova to the Comrades Abroad

Dear Comrades:

I should like to relate to you briefly how the women workers in our factories live and work.

In the two buildings of our factory the spinning mill and the weaving mill, 9,000 working men and women are engaged; of these 70 per cent are women. The seven-hour day was introduced in our factory in April, 1928, and we work three shifts, so that we have night shift every three weeks. All expectant and nursing mothers are exempt from night shift for nine months; they are allotted day shift, without their wages or working conditions being a iota worsened. For two months before and two months after confinement the woman worker is freed from all work in the factory, and receives during this time benefit from the insurance fund to the amount of her wage. Besides this, the mother receives from the insurance fund nursing benefit to the amount of nine roubles monthly. The insurance fund also pays a lump sum on the birth of the child, a provision for the infant's "outfit," to the amount of 35 roubles, or furnishes a layette of the same value. Should the child die, the mother receives 37 roubles for funeral expenses.

The women's department and the factory council have organized nurseries for children beneath three years of age. For the older children kindergartens are provided, where the children are cared for free of charge, fed, provided with clean and hygienic surroundings. Their health looked after with the utmost care under medical superintendence, and they are permitted to remain as long as the mother is working in the factory. In our factory the women's department is submitting to the factory management a suggestion that the children may remain in the kindergarten whilst the mothers are attending meetings or sessions, or are engaged in some other social work after factory work.

We have also gratis consultations for mothers and children. We women workers receive the same wages as the men, in proportion to our qualifications or to the work done. For instance, a weaver (man or woman alike) earns on an average in a month, that is, in 25 days, 50 to 60 roubles, or sometimes 70 to 80 roubles. A spinner at the Sigal machine earns 70 to 80 roubles, a woman worker at the water machine 55 to 60 roubles.

Women who are nursing their infants can leave the factory half an hour earlier for nine months without loss of pay.

These are the material advantages which our factory has introduced for raising the standard of living for the working women, and which we may count among the achievements of the Red-October. Now we shall pass to the social and political

life of the women. You will be already aware that the women textile workers are people somewhat backward in education, especially among us in Russia. It will therefore be easily comprehended that only a part of the women textile workers of our factory are educated, and can read and write well. There are even still a few illiterates among them. But, thanks to the persevering work of our organizations, the women's department, the factory council, the Young Communist and Communist Party nuclei, we succeed better every year in inducing the women workers to take part in the leading organs, in the management of the factory, and in the social organizations.

This is not easy, for our conditions of life—cooking, "women affairs"—have us still much too fast in their grasp—and there are still many among us who think their housework and their household matters more important. During the eleven years of the existence of the Soviet power, however, many of the women in our factory have developed into the most active, most class-conscious, and best of our workers, taking leading places in the workshops (the younger technical personnel in the factories), as members of the town and village Soviets, as leaders in the co-operatives, as presidents in the commissions for the protection of labor, and in many other important positions. The present secretary of our factory council is a weaver, our woman comrade Komenkina. The directrix of the factory comrade Vengerova, the chairman of the commission for the protection of labor in our factory is the weaver comrade Petchinikova, the chairman of the revision commission of the co-operatives comrade Akimzeva. Four women comrades take part in the management of the co-operatives themselves. Ten women comrades are working in various sections of the town Soviets and district executive committees, and it is impossible to enumerate all the other women actively engaged, for there is no work in our factory, and no leading organization, in which women do not take part.

Finnish Women Textile Workers on Strike

HELSINGFORS, Finland—For 28 weeks through the spring, summer and early autumn of 1928, 1,000 Finnish women textile strikers stood out in a heroic struggle for a wage increase. Reformist trade union officials, Fascist strike-breaker bands, and capitalist mill owners could not break the strike.

At last in October, 1928, a partial victory was won by these heroic women. The hourly wage was raised by about 18 per cent and the rate was fixed by tariff. Managers were obliged by the strike settlement to reinstate strikers first of all, to discharge all the scabs, and to grant the workers certain holidays.

A reformist union secretary who tried to sell out the workers was obliged to resign from his

GERMAN WOMEN WORKERS CALL FOR FIGHT ON WAR

Women of the Working Class!

We proletarian women of Germany send following call to our workingclass sisters in other capitalist countries:

Intensify your struggle against imperialist war! Let us fight together in the defense of our workers' state, the Soviet Union!

Let us redouble our collective efforts to make workingclass women, held in ignorance and without class-consciousness, fully aware of the rapidly growing war danger.

Just as before the world war, the organizations of bourgeois women are now at work, hiding with talk of "world peace," the imperialist war preparations which grow more intensely every moment, in order to delude the proletarian women into a feeling of security.

During the last week of October the World League of Women Voters met in Berlin and at an International evening spoke about "world understanding through the women." The French speaker, Melaterre-Sellier, declared that the people were in favor of peace. The entrance of Germany into the League of Nations would mean peace. "Place your hope in the peace-loving people and in the disarmament commission"—that was the hypocritical appeal of this "world league."

We German proletarian women answer:

Do not place your hopes on so-called "people's leagues" and Disarmament Conferences! Pay no attention to the false slogans of peace of the bourgeois women's organizations!

The League of Nations is an organization which exists for the purpose of serving the imperialist robber states.

Disarmament Conferences are only a cloak with which actual war preparations are covered.

This talk of peace is a lie which only serves to drown the sounds of the propellers of the ever growing fleet of war planes, to hide the rumblings of the great modern machines of war as they move up for action.

We women of the working class, organized into the Red League of Women and Girls, know and see that in Germany, the decision to build armored cruisers was carried through with the help of the Socialist ministers of the government. That was a war signal which awakened many who were still asleep! That was a lightning flash which lit up the darkness in us.

In "our" German republic they are building armored cruisers—there is no money for the needs of the working masses. In this country the capitalists drive the working women in the factories to the limit. With the threat of the slave whip they are being trained for their future task as workers in the munitions factories and poison gas plants. The reformist trade union leaders here lend their aid in the strangling of the class struggle, and the mobilization of industry for the coming war. Here the bourgeois and nationalist women's organizations, sport and mutual benefit organizations, are hypocritically blinding the eyes of the women to the coming war.

Does this war policy of the German bourgeoisie remain unanswered by the working class?

No! The realization of the threatening war is growing among us working women and also our determination to resist. We fought against the construction of armed cruisers. We proclaimed through city and countryside: A new world war is threatening! Working Women! Struggle against the war danger! We reached thousands of women.

The German proletarian women do not want war. To win them for the fight against imperialist war is our most important task. We pledge ourselves to carry out this task, to arouse the sleeping, to teach the unknowing, to bring the sluggish ones to life.

We want to strengthen the bond of international solidarity with you! Tell us of your organization and of your struggles!

Our determination to struggle against the war danger grows stronger every day. We have clenched our fists in preparation for the battle to destroy our enemy imperialism.

Working Women's Shop Delegate Conference May 4

Takes Up Organization of Unorganized Women Workers and Election of Working Women Delegates to Cleveland Convention

The Trade Union Educational League has called a working women's shop delegate conference for Saturday, May 4th, 1929, 2 P. M., at Irving Plaza Hall, 15th Street and Irving Place, where the representatives of shops from needle trades, textiles, manufacturing and stores will gather to discuss their problems in connection with the Trade Union Unity Conference and begin a widespread campaign throughout the entire city for the election of women delegates from unions and from shops to the Cleveland Convention, so that the voice of the women workers of this country against exploitation, against the impending imperialist war, against open shops and speed-up systems and against the treacherous bureaucracy of the A. F. of L., and the right wing, will be heard throughout every corner of the country, bring a message of hope to the millions of exploited women workers and rally them around the new unions and around the new trade union center.

For years the open shop bosses have tightened the yoke of slavery on the millions of working women; for years the millions of working women were the readiest object for exploitation by the bosses; everywhere the drive of the bosses in open shops, wage cuts, speed-up systems, is directed especially at the women workers who are the least able to resist them.

In the textile industry, millions of women in conditions of slavery. In the needle trades union,

the North and South are working under the control of the old stronghold of the organized women, the employers, the company union officials, police and courts are united in the fight to smash the new Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. In the heavy industry, such as rubber and automobiles, the women are being drawn in in great numbers, who without organization or skill, are the cheapest substitute for men workers. Woman's labor has become a decisive factor not only in the light but also in the heavy industry, in the ammunition industry where the women played such an important role in the last war and will be still more important in the next war. While the number of women workers were increasing year by year, the reactionary bureaucracy of the American Federation of Labor stood aside and ignored these millions of workers, leaving them the prey to the greed of the bosses.

The attempts of the progressives in the American trade union movement to organize the unorganized and particularly the women workers, was met with expulsions and persecutions by the reactionary officialdom of the American Federation of Labor who today stand exposed as the agents of the bosses. The heroic struggle of the working women in Passaic, New Bedford, the struggle of the women workers in the southern textile mills, the struggle of the dressmakers, millinery workers and the struggles of the other

women of the needle trades and other industries, are definite proof that the working women are awakening, under a militant leadership, and are ready to fight side by side with the men-workers for the improvement of their conditions.

The first step by which the millions of working women in all industries can better themselves is the election of the new militant section of the American trade union movement.

The conference in Cleveland on June 1st and 2nd will be a conference of representatives not only from the new unions but of the workers of the unorganized factories and will have amongst them delegates from every industry and every section of the country.

Take up this call with the workers of your shop whether organized or unorganized.

Elect delegates for the Conference on May 4th, 2 p. m., at Irving Plaza, 15th St. and Irving Pl.

Join with us in the great struggle to organize the working men and women into stronger powerful unions, able to defend themselves from the greed of the bosses. Join with us in the struggle to fight against the coming world slaughter. Join hands with the millions of working men of this and every other country to organize the working class against capitalist oppression.

Forward to the conference on May 4th! Send your delegates to the convention!
WOMEN'S DEPT. T. U. E. L., Local New York.

Women Workers Write Of Conditions In Their Shops

Sweater Slave Speaks

The conditions in my shop are terrible. The bosses are very cruel to the workers. We are not allowed to speak to each other while at work, the foreman always being on watch, always repeating the same thing: Work! Work! Work!

It does not make any difference how much work we turn out during the day. The speed-up is terrific.

The wages are low and ours long.

When it gets busy the bosses try to fool the workers with a lot of promises, but as soon as it gets slow everything is forgotten and the same brutality is applied. If any worker protests he is told "If you don't like it you can go." We are compelled to work overtime when it is busy without pay for it, but when a worker is late five minutes he is docked.

The dressing room is small and filthy. Floors are never cleaned. There is a small room for twelve girls. You cannot be comfortable even when you use the dressing room.

The work room is very small. Twelve are employed when there is only room for three, and that space is packed with boxes for sweaters and bottles to clean the sweaters.

You cannot protest, because that means being fired immediately.

These characteristics are

similar in the entire sweater industry.

But it is our own fault. Why? Because we are not organized.

The bosses take advantage because there is no organization to protect the worker.

Workers, it is time to wake up. We have now a Union that is out to organize the workers of all races and nationalities. Let's put our shoulder to the wheel and build a strong union in the Knitgoods and Textile Industries.

A SWEATER WORKER.

Food Strikers Fight

To the Editor Working Woman:

I would like to tell you of some of my experiences in connection with the strike of the cafeteria workers now going on in New York City.

We have been on strike now for several weeks, and each day more women and men join our strike and each day we put more fear into the hearts of the bosses.

At the Marvin Cafeteria on 39th St. where we have been picketing since the beginning of the strike, the bosses are very nervous and angry. We keep them guessing each day and they never know what to do next.

On the first day as we were picketing walking up and down with our strike signs on, the boss hired several detect-

ives and thugs to watch us and if possible keep us away from in front of the doorway.

On the second day instead of the one policeman that was usually around there we found four cops and one sergeant.

By the middle of the week the boss hired a "picket" to carry a sign up and down.

On this sign was written: "We are not on strike" and "Our help are satisfied with their wages and hours." Of course the workers around the streets understood that this was just a trick on the part of the

bosses to fool the workers into coming back to eat in his restaurant. Now they have a big sign hanging from the top of the cafeteria telling the workers the same lies to the effect that there is no strike there any more.

This, together with articles filled with lies cut from the Yellow Jewish Daily Forward and the Day, each stuck on their windows they hope to fool the workers.

Now they have the injunction which they hand to the pickets and then arrest them. But the more pickets they arrest the more come from the Union headquarters to take their places. We are out on strike and we are going to stay out and win our demands for shorter hours, better pay and more sanitary conditions.

A PICKET.

A Real Leadership

I am a chairlady in a millinery shop. I have been working in this place over a year.

A right-wing union official sent me up there. Prices were never settled. We were always paid a little on account until the prices would be settled.

Then we would remain with nothing but the account in our hands. Work was never divided. The girls in our shop did not even know what division of work meant.

I went down to the then organizer of local 43, Oppenheim, and asked her what kind of a union shop this was. This was what she answered, "I am sorry I can't do anything in that shop. It is very difficult to get along with that boss. Even Spector is afraid of him and there is a very bad set of girls there. They never pay their dues."

Later the struggle began between local 43 and 24. Gladys Schechter, the Left wing organizer, took up that shop. I became chairlady. Through that year of struggle I can state the shop has im-

proved a hundred per cent. Miss Schechter put in much energy among the workers of this shop. Meetings were called every week and when necessary twice a week. Only now the girls were really being organized, for although they had been members of the union for over a year they did not understand what a union stands for.

We succeeded with the help of the Left wing leaders in arranging that prices be settled every week and work divided equally among the girls during the slack period. Many times during the struggle to win these conditions I became discouraged and wanted to resign from my post as chairlady, but the Left wing organizer cheered me up and gave me inspiration. I have learned much through this year of struggle.

This is the difference between left and right wing leadership. I will do my utmost for the present leadership of local 43, together with the New Industrial Needle Trades Workers Union.

A CHAIRLADY.

SUBSCRIBE TO

THE WORKING WOMAN

National Women's Department,
Communist Party of U. S.

43 East 125th Street

New York City