

# The WORKING WOMAN

The Voice of Women Workers

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

Subscription rates, 50 cents per year. Foreign \$1.00 per year. Single copies 5 cents

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

VOL. 2, No. 7

NEW YORK, JULY, 1931

5 Cents

## MINERS' WIVES, DAUGHTERS MARCH AGAINST STARVATION CONDITIONS



MINERS' CHILDREN, who know the pangs of hunger, are active in the strike their parents are waging against starvation conditions. Above photo shows a group of children in a picket demonstration in Western Pennsylvania.

### Coal Barons Unleash Terror Against Striking Miners in Effort to Break Big Strike

Read the Stories of the Women on the Picket Line on Page 8

Striking against intolerable conditions of semi-starvation on the job, more than 40,000 miners in Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia are now in the fourth week of a most serious and militant strike against the coal barons of the bituminous fields.

Especially active in the daily picketing demonstrations before the pits, are the women, young and old, and the children. Thoroughly aroused to the need to win decent living conditions, they know the meaning of hunger, of undernourishment, of seeing their children slowly starve before their eyes.

The full force of the power and terror of the coal barons has been unloosed against the heroic striking miners and their families. Coal and iron police, sheriff deputies and company and state troopers have carried on a murderous campaign of terror in a desperate attempt to break the spirit and morale of the miners. Already two miners have been brutally murdered and nearly a dozen seriously injured by gun-fire assaults in Western Pennsylvania.

Reading the letters of miners' wives elsewhere in the WORKING WOMAN, the great need for immediate relief in the form of food, clothing and funds in winning the strike cannot be too greatly emphasized.

The WORKING WOMAN calls upon all women's organizations to affiliate immediately to the miners' relief committees in their towns or cities, to throw themselves vigorously into the work of getting relief and to draw ever wider masses of working women into the campaign of support of the fighting miners and their families.

#### BULLETIN

As we go to press word is received that Judge A. E. Hawkins has denied a new trial to the eight innocent Scottsboro boys.

Working class women everywhere must join the fight to free them. Get your shop and organization to join in the protest demonstration throughout the country June 27.



MARCH ON COUNTY. Women take an active part in the hunger march of 15,000 miners and steel workers on Washington County seat, to demand jobless relief and no evictions



Left: One of the women pickets at Clairsville, O., felled by a tear gas attack, by deputies.



Right: A miner's boy with an empty dinner pail. The fight for food goes on. Rush relief to help miners win their fight.

# Bread Strikes Now on in Paterson, the Bronx; Win in Philadelphia, Pa.

## Short Bread Strike in Phila. Is Won Against Bosses

### A F of L Union Sides With Bosses

Two bread strikes have taken place lately in Philadelphia in different parts of the city. In both of them the Bakers Local of the American Weferation of Labor openly opposed the demands of the working class for lower prices on bread, although at both strikes the demand was made that the reduction of the price of bread should not be reflected in the wages of the workers.

I shall describe only the second strike which ended victoriously 4 days ago (June 16). It occurred in a district called Strawberry Mansion, which holds some 10,000 families, and was called by a special strike committee elected at a mass meeting of the working women of the Women's League.

It is interesting that such an "innocent" strike based on the reduction of two cents per pound of bread should lead to such activity by the leaders of the A. F. of L. Bakers Local. At a mass demonstration the very first day of the strike, rumors were spread that this strike was a result of Communist machinations, which means not the reduction of the cost of bread, but the breaking up of the Bakers Union. This happened on Thursday. On Friday and Saturday, in all the anti-workingclass Jewish papers, appeared statements of the Bakers Union with slanderous lies against the strike leaders; at the same time begging the population, and especially all of the loyal minded women not to be misled by the restless elements.

Neither were the police inactive. On the second day of the strike many women on the picket line were arrested and rearrested. The next day a comrade, very active in the strike, was attacked by groups of gangsters. Inside the machine in which the gangsters arrived, but were not quick enough to get into afterwards, was found a check

## Write About Your Fight on High Food And Rent

Mass picketing — eight arrests — two thousand at a demonstration. That is what is happening to women in a Bronx neighborhood who are carrying on a real fight to lower bread prices. Read their story on this page.

In a nearby section Negro tenants are striking against the high rents and smelly toilets.

In Philadelphia, a bread strike was won during June.

In Paterson, victory was also won by women striking for lower prices on bread. There the bakers were willing to give in to the demands before picketing was begun. They even pleaded with the women not to picket.

There can be no doubt that the working women are frcing the prices of food and rent down. **THEY ARE SHOWING THAT IT CAN BE DONE.**

But what about working women in other parts of the country? If you have organized a Tenants League on your block, tell the WORKING WOMAN about it. If you have conducted a bread strike against your baker tell us about it. And if you are planning to do any of these things, let us know. We will print your article in the Working Woman.

## Picketing a Baker Shop in the Bronx



Working women and housewives of the vicinity of 180th Street and Arthur Avenue, are now engaged in a fight to lower the price of bread. Police have been paid by the baker bosses to slug and assault them. Many have been arrested. But the strike goes on. Photo shows a group of active picketers just before a demonstration at one of the struck shops.

for twenty-five dollars by the bakers. The machine belonged to the Bakers Union. On Saturday a mass demonstration of children and adults was broken up by the police where three children and eight adults were arrested.

However, all this terror did not have any effect. The more brutal the attacks, the more crowded the open air meetings, and the more the sympathy of the population grew. Women started to bake the bread at home and even taught their neighbor women how to do it. Not all of them joined the picket line, but they would come out in groups and severely criticize those few women who would enter the bakeries.

### Bosses Give in

On the thirteenth day of the strike, the leaders of the Bakers Local resorted to their last measure. They sent out their workers

to our headquarters and around the bakeries in order to terrorize the picketers. This last measure revealed before the workers the true face of the so-called union, and they had to give in. The following day the strike was settled in favor of the strikers. Now the women are inquiring when we should start a strike in regard to other food products.

What did we gain by that strike? Quite a bit. We succeeded in reducing the price of bread and rolls. The Pioneers increased their number; the Women's League grew popular in that part of the city, which will undoubtedly help to increase the membership. A committee was elected to organize a Consumers' League.

—S. Nachovitz.

## Bronx Bread Strike One of Largest in USA, for Low Price

### Bosses, AFL, Police United in Trying to Crush Strike

BRONX, N. Y. — "Five cents for your bread or we won't eat it!" That's the firm demand voiced by 150 Bronx women picketing the bakeries in their neighborhood. AND THEY MEAN IT. Working women and housewives are tired of being an easy prey to small shopkeepers, and under the leadership of the United Council of Working Class Women, they are determined to lower the prices of rolls and bread in their neighborhood.

There have been two big demonstrations of the neighborhood toolstrations in which two thousand part. The Pioneers — the militant organization of working class children — have also been helping their mothers to get cheaper bread for them and they organized fifty children to attend the mass demonstrations held during the third week of June.

Bread must come down from 8 cents to 5 cents a pound; rolls from 20 cents a dozen to 15 cents a dozen; crullers 17 cents a dozen; and twists — small, 10 cents, large 15 cents. Already some of the bakers are selling their bread in accordance with the demands, but the women of the neighborhood will take no less than complete victory.

This is one of the largest bread strikes that women in this country have engaged in. There has been a greater attack by the bosses in this than in any previous bread strike.

Women have been clubbed and beaten. Sixteen were arrested, among them a pregnant woman, and three of the women were given five days in jail. That's how the courts line up with the petty shopkeepers.

The American Federation of Labor has been trying to confuse the workers in the neighborhood by telling them that cheaper bread would lower the pay of the bakers. This is a lie and shows how the American Federation of Labor is tied to the bosses. They support them against the workers every time and try to cover up their tracks with lies.

The women of the Bronx are setting a fine example to women all over the country. Join them in their campaign to get cheaper bread for themselves and their children!

United States.

If you have an electric ice box, then you don't have to worry about the new rates; your bill will be less. But every worker who has been scrimping to make ends meet, who has made the best possible use of the longer days to save electricity, has been hit by the new rates. Even the Public Service Commission admits that half the people in New York City will have to pay more. And it is the workers that are hit.

The New York Edison Company is out to make profits out of the pockets of the workers, just like every other big company. They decided to make electric rates cheaper for big users so that they would boost sales of electric refrigerators and radios, thereby causing more electricity to be used. But the cheaper rates for the rich are being paid by the poor. This is a clear example of how the bosses are forcing down the standard of living of the workers in order to pile up profits.

## Paterson Women In Bread Strike

### Strike Committee of 50 Is Elected

Paterson, the textile city, with a large number of its workers out of jobs, has taken up the struggle against the high cost of living and its workers are now involved in a strike against the high cost of bread. At a very enthusiastic meeting held on Thursday, June 18, the workers voted to fight for bread to be reduced from eight cents to five cents a pound. A strike committee of fifty was elected, and they worked out plans for the strike.

On the first day of the strike one of the bakeries settled. The Carroll Street Bakery tried to intimidate the pickets and arrested five of them. But the entire neighborhood supported our demands and the baker was forced to sign up with the strike committee.

One of the bakeries declared on strike is the Unity, a socialist controlled co-operative, which has under it four other bakeries that are on strike. These "labor men" are fighting the hardest against the demands and are working hand in glove with the police of Paterson.

Six of the pickets were arrested but were released on mass pressure. Some of their own followers do not agree with the tactics of the socialist co-operative, and have even stopped buying bread at their stores. The strike committee calls on all workers of Paterson to help them win the fight against the high cost of bread.

—R. N.

## Electric Rates for NY Workers are up

If your electric light bill was 35 cents in New York City in June, it will be \$1.00 in July. In fact, if your bill was under \$2.00, it will be more next month. These are the new light rates put over by the New York Edison Co., one of the richest companies in the

## DEMAND CHEAPER BREAD



A section of the working class women striking a group of Bronx baker shops for lower prices on bread and rolls, shown demonstrating, carrying placards with demands.

# LETTERS FROM THE SHOPS

## Northwest Canneries Work Women Workers Hard; Pay Is Low and Work Seasonal

### Cannery Worker Sees Need of Women Workers to Organize Against Such Conditions

Bellingham, Washington.

"Working Woman";

I am a cannery worker and I thought I would write and tell you some of the conditions we work under here.

Two years ago I worked Topping Beet making, at \$4.50 a day piece work. They thought it was too good so they put me peeling pears. There I would only make \$3.00, they promised to put me back topping beets when the pears were done but that was just a promise.

I was supposed to be doing the boss a favor as a new pear peeler would waste too much pears trying to learn to peel them. But I never got back on beets. They put me to slicing apples, where I could only make \$1.70 to \$2.00 counting the bonus they were to pay at the end of the season providing you stayed a full season.

#### If Sick—No Bonus

If you quit before whether you were sick or not you never got their bonus. \$1.70 to \$2.00 was as much as most two-thirds of the slicers made.

For all this work we furnished our own knives for which they charged us 35 cents and this could be bought at any notion store for 15 cents.

The carrot packers contracted carrot poison so bad that it went all up their arms and in their eyes. That they were forced to lay off for some time. They got social insurance, although the workers paid into the fund.

They have a big bull driver here that drives them like a lot of cattle and has no respect for them at all.

#### Floor Ladies Slave Drivers

There are three floor ladies who receive a bonus at the end of the year for driving us like hell. Some of the girls break even at the end of the year because the hours are so broken.

The doctor states that the cannery workers are a poor bet as they never pay their bills. One day you are paid off, often you have worked a couple of hours. The next day you work from ten to eleven hours when the following day they will tell you that you are not to report before 3 p. m., then you may often work until ten o'clock that night.

This is the way that they run the whole season. They state that they have not old one case of their pack this year. But the market is the object regardless of price.

Workers, this condition also applies to us.

We must organize and strike. This is the Kale Cannery of Everson. But understand that these conditions are the same in all canneries of the Northwest.

A BELLINGHAM WORKER.

## Secret Burial of Communist Girl Victim

WARSAW, Poland.—In order to avoid demonstrations the police hurriedly and secretly buried the body of comrade Dubinskaya, a young girl communist and a member of the district committee of the Young Communist League in Poyonski, who was murdered during a demonstration on the 31st of May by police agents. The coffin was rushed to the cemetery on a motor lorry guarded by armed police. Only the immediate relatives of the murdered girl were permitted to be present at the funeral which took place in darkness. The next morning it was seen that young communists had covered the grave with flowers and red ribbons.

## Vag Jobless Girls in San Francisco

No jobs—empty stomachs—young unemployed women workers have only their bodies to sell. The labor power which is stored up in them, no one wants, and as for their bodies—the market is clustered with such wards.

Consequences: 42 arrests for soliciting on the streets is the daily average in San Francisco. The Guardian Club, which fed an average of 300 daily, has suspended its "charities." No more funds. What is there let to do?

Jobless women! Join the Unemployed Council and fight for social insurance—\$15 a week and \$3 additional for each dependent.

## Johnstown Working Women Get Their Wages Slashed; Conditions Getting Worse

### Many Families Living Hand to Mouth Existence on Ragged Edge of Starvation

Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Comrades:

Conditions here in Johnstown are very bad. Wages are being cut all over the mines and mills, even the working women having their wages cut and thrown out of work. Of course we have Hoover prosperity of starvation and unemployment. We should not wait for Gov. Pinchot's promise

of conditions will pick up within 4 or 5 more months. That is a lot more bunk put in the capitalist press to blind the workers. We must fight—not starve.

For instance, as I was selling my 50 copies of the Daily Worker house to house. One door I went to a little girl came, I asked for her mother. She said her mother was sick in bed, I said, your father. He was in bed also. I asked if they had any help and "no" was the answer. They had only dry hard pieces of crust in the house to eat for 6 small children. No fire. House was cold. The next door I went I explained to the lady of the house about her neighbor. She told me. This man was out of work for 8 months. She was out of work for 8 months. She promised to help them. But comrades, this is not only one case I saw. But there are thousands and thousands like this and worse as down in the garbage yards little children can be seen every day picking out garbage and eating it. So comrades, wake up, don't sleep any longer. Join in the Unemployed Councils and fight for our rights for unemployed insurance.

Housewives and working women, organize together, for we are the most oppressed, more so than the men. We are at home seeing our children crying for food. How do we feel when we have not even a piece of crust to give them?

We must fight side by side with our men and be in the struggle with them. Their fight is our fight. So, comrades, and women workers, we are the ones who suffer from unemployment and low wages. Slaving from sun up till sun down in order to give our children what little we can. We must all join in the working class organizations. Be in the fight for better conditions for our families. This is for all workers, whether they are different nationalities, color or creed. We are all workers. We must all fight side by side against capitalism. What we want to have here is to have a workers' and farmers' government like our fatherland, the Soviet Union.

Yours in the fight always,  
An Unemployed Worker's wife.

## Murphy Pack'g Pays Women Low Wages — Fires Men

Denver, Colo.

Fellow Working Women:

In several department in the Blaney Murphy packing plant in Denver the bosses are increasing their profits by firing the men and hiring the women to do the same work for much less wages. These women are getting from twelve to thirteen dollars a week. The men doing this same work receive from forty-two to fifty cents an hour.

Our working women must not allow ourselves to be used by the bosses as a means of cutting the wages. We can beat the bosses in their wage cutting schemes by organizing along with the men and demanding equal pay for equal work. —A Woman Wage Slave.

## STARING AT STARVATION



When her husband had been out of work for a long time and unable to secure any charity relief of any sort, the working class mother shown above, had nothing but the bare cupboard to go to for food for her two little children. Besides she faces eviction.

This is in Brooklyn, but the same scene can be repeated in all parts of the country. Join now to fight for immediate relief.

## Finds Wives of Jobless Workers in Their Homes Silently Starving, Sick

With the deepening of this present crisis, there is also growing the army of the unemployed men and women. But not only the women who are thrown out of the factories suffer misery and starvation. There is a great army of working women whom we call housewives, 35 per cent of whom are silently starving in their homes.

Last week, while selling the "Working Woman" I knocked at one worker's door on 3d Avenue in the Bronx Negro section. At first I heard no answer. Then a weak voice said, "Open the door and walk right in." I entered and found a sick Negro woman with two children in actual starvation condition. Tears were rolling from the woman's eyes and her lips trembled, like a leaf, from hunger. When I told that woman what I had come for she could not answer me but pointed to a cradle where a baby, less than a year old, was lying in a dying condition because the mother had no money for milk. That baby was dying of starvation.

In the spirit of solidarity with this Negro woman, I shared whatever I had in my pocket, with her, for I knew that if today this worker was in such condition, tomorrow I or any other worker might be in the same condition. This capitalist system does not hesitate to exploit all workers both Negro and white alike. We are all subjected to the bosses and their system which breeds misery and starvation for the working class. We must all therefore fight together to overthrow such a system. We must unite—all workers! Black and white! Foreign and native born! Young and adult! Working men and women! Organize in struggle against the bosses and the state bosses! Fight for unemployment insurance. Read and spread the "Working Woman," the only and best organizer of women workers at the factories and in the homes!

FREDA JACKSON.

P. S. Since that time this Negro woman reads the "Working Woman" every week and urges all her neighbors to do so.

## Humiliate Workers at Seattle Social Welfare Agency

### Family of Three to Live on 50 Cents Says Charity

SEATTLE, Wash.—The Seattle Social Welfare goes the limit in asking questions to check on the workers who ask for help, some of them with no apparent purpose than to humiliate the worker and make him realize "his place." I went there a few days ago because my husband has been unable to get more than a few days of work for a long time and I have been sick, and we are threatened with eviction because we can't pay the rent. The following are the questions the "welfare" worker asked me:

Where was I born. Why my father brought our family to this country. Why I left home, and did I quarrel with my folks. Who my brothers and sisters were, where they live, how many children, what their occupations are. Why I got married. How long after I was married before my child was born. Why I only have one child and my relations have big families.

#### Like Third Degree

Then she wanted to know every place we had lived and every contractor my husband had worked for. If my husband couldn't get work, why didn't I try to go to work, as women are frequently preferred to men, because they work cheaper. (And then they complain about married women going to work and break up the home—but I told her why I was unable to work.)

Finally she wanted to know how we had been living, and I told her that we got \$5 a week from my husband's union and I could manage to get everything for that but the milk, and couldn't pay rent or buy clothes. She said, "I don't see why you can't buy milk on that—a family of three should live on 50c a day." (Fifty cents is the relief allowance from Social Welfare.) I wanted to ask her if she did, but then she asked me if my husband had had any work at all, and I said that he worked a day and a half the week before. She immediately shut up the book and said, "O, well—your husband is working!" She wanted to know why we didn't pay the rent from that! Then she said, "They can't put you out anyway, as it costs too much to get the papers to evict you." That's all. If she only intended to tell me that they could not put me out, why did she take up the time to ask all these questions?

A WOMAN WORKER.

## Relief will Help Miners Win

Over 40,000 miners are on strike in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. They are fighting against starvation conditions imposed upon them by the coal barons. Miners' wages have been reduced in many cases to a third of what they were a few years ago. The miners' standard of living is one of semi-starvation. Miners go to work with nothing but bread and water in their dinner pail.

Miners' wives are compelled to walk barefoot. Miners' daughters can not leave the home because they have no clothes. Miners' children are sickly and dying for lack of food. Many of the miners' children have already forgotten the taste of milk. It is such conditions that brought the miners to strike. It is against such conditions that the miners are putting up one of the most militant struggles in the history of the workers of this country, under the leadership of the National Miners Union.

The bosses tried to break the strike of the miners by forcing them to join the United Mine Workers which carries on negotiations with the coal operators and tries to make agreements when they have no right to speak for the miners. All the strikers are fighting under the leadership of the National Miners Union. The miners are joining the National Miners Union by the thousands.

The bosses also tried to break the strike of the miners through arbitration. The so-called liberal Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania called a conference to settle the strike. But he did not ask the miners what they want. He tried to force the miners back to work on the present starvation conditions.

All this time that the bosses tried thru these schemes to break the strike, they arrested workers on the picket line, clubbed and gassed the miners, their wives and children. But now when they see that the miners are solid, when they see that the miners are putting up a fight to win, when they see that they are facing in this struggle 150,000 miners, their wives and children, who are bravely fighting against starvation and will not allow themselves to be sold out, now they are trying to break the strike thru wholesale murder of the strikers and their leaders. Already two workers have been shot dead on the spot; the reports are that of the more than two dozen strikers wounded by the bullets of the coal and iron police and deputy sheriffs, at least one has died, bringing the total dead to three.

But the workers will not stand by and see the miners defeated thru murder and terror. The miners are fighting a great fight. They are also fighting for us. If the miners can be defeated it will mean worse conditions for all workers and their wives and children. If the miners win their fight, it will mean that the workers all over the country will carry on the fight against wage cuts and win better conditions. It is therefore the duty of every worker, of every working woman, to rally to the support of the miners. The working women and the entire working class can be proud of the role played by the miners' wives in this strike. They are militant fighters on the picket line. They are busy raising relief. They are building up their organization, the Women's Auxiliaries, around the National Miners Union. They are an active force in the strike in addition to having to take care of their homes without funds and under the most difficult conditions.

We must give immediate support to the strike. We must quickly send food, clothing and money to the striking miners. We must join in the protest against the murder of the miners. We must fight for the right to organize and picket. Against the injunction. We must do all in our power to help win the strike of the miners. We must use his strike to organize and fight!

## Stockyard Family in Denver Starve

### City Refuses Aid to Workers Family

Denver, Colo.

Editor, Working Woman:  
I want to tell you of the case of a Spanish family living in Denver. The man has been out of work for several months. This worker, his wife, and three children have all been sick. They have no money to pay their rent. Their landlady (who is not so bad as landladies go) went to the City Hall and asked the authorities to help these people. She said she didn't want to put them out of the house, but she needed the money. She was told that the City could do nothing for this family. That the City had more cases than they could take care of now, and if these people can't pay their rent put them out. This is the answer of the city

administration to the unemployed workers of Denver, and is one of the reasons why the workers both men and women are organizing into the unemployed councils of the Trade Union Unity League and are making a drive for the 5,000 signatures required to put the workers' Social Insurance bill on the ballot, in the elections that will be held in May.

This bill provides ten dollars a week for each couple and two dollars a week for each dependant, for any worker unable to find employment, or for any reason is unable to work.

A WOMAN WORKER.

### Young Students Suffer From Defects

NEW YORK.—Unemployment and wage cuts have had a terrible effect upon working class children in New York. Press releases on disease show that the children of workers are feeling the effects of the crisis so sharply that new records have been set in the matter of tubercular patients.

## Federal Knitting Co To Cut Wages to \$9 of Working Women

### Had Previously Made \$10-\$15 a Week After Hard Speeding Up

Cleveland, Ohio

I am employed at the Federal Knitting Mill and the conditions in this factory are getting from bad to worse. We work on piece work system, terrible speed-up. In order to make anything we have to fly.

We have been getting wage cuts right along and again last week we had 1 cent wage cut. Our wages are from 10 to 15 dollars a week, if we work every day, but while it has been slack we haven't had work every day, but the funniest part is when we are laid off during the week we are called to work on Saturday, although we are only supposed to work half a day the boss comes around and says we have to work 2 and 3 hours overtime for which we do not receive no pay for our work.

Now the factory officials tell us that in order to keep the factory going our wages will be cut to \$9 a week, and piece work will be cut off, and every one will receive \$9.00 a week. We realize that we should organize and fight against this wage cut, but it takes the smart ones to do it, there are lots of employees in this factory that have been with the factory for years and some that have been employed when the factory was started, so they are the ones who are willing to knuckle down to the bosses' demands. Also there are married women lots of whom are the main support in their family, when their husband has been unemployed for months they think it is better than nothing. But the only way we can make conditions better is by organizing into one big union—the Trade Union Unity League.

A WORKER

## Thousands Working Women Rally to Save Scottsboro Boys as July 10 Draws Near

### June 27 Demonstrations Throughout Country Demands Release of the Framed Boys

In the death cells of Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Alabama, locked behind steel walls, eight innocent Negro boys are waiting for the working class to release them before July 10th, the date set for their execution. Only the mighty protest of all workers, speaking in solidarity, can save them from death in the electric chair.

These defendants are accused of raping two white girls they had not even seen, on a freight train going from Tennessee to Birmingham, Ala., where the boys were hoping to find jobs. Their earnings were greatly needed to help support their families, but it was impossible to find work in their home towns.

Taken off the freight train by armed sheriffs, simply because some other Negro boys had a quarrel on the train with some white boys, the nine Negro boys, all under twenty years old, were arraigned on the same day and committed to jail without bond on a charge of rape. In two weeks, without any time for defense, all the boys were convicted and sentenced to the electric chair, with the exception of Roy Wright, who is only 14 years old, and who was turned over to the juvenile authorities.

The defendants are Andy Wright, Roy Wright, Haywood Patterson and Eugene Williams, from Chattanooga, Tenn.; Olin Montgomery, Charles Norris and Charles Weems, Willie Robinson, and Ozie Powell.

The International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights during the past month have led the working class in a vigorous fight for the immediate release of these innocent boys.

Meanwhile, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, organization of middle class bourgeois Negroes, has tried in vain to take the case away from the workers' own organizations and has sent messengers to the jail in an attempt to confuse

the boys, who are too young to speak for themselves in the eyes of the law.

### Parents Support I L D

But the boys' parents and the boys in prison are standing solidly behind the I L D. The parents journeyed many miles to the Kilby Prison to see their sons and signed a statement asking the International Labor Defense to conduct their case.

Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the boys, now on tour with her little daughter, Lucille, in the interests of the case, issued a statement when she heard that the N A A C P was again trying to confuse the boys:

"Why does the N A A C P go to the prison to bewilder our children? Why don't they come to us? We told them repeatedly that if they wish to help, let them cooperate with the International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights."

### Women Workers Rally to Defense

What if it were your son or your brother? women workers are asking. The legal defense must be backed up by the great force of the working class, building a powerful defense movement.

Only such a strong movement can save the boys. Women workers and women's organizations, including Block and Neighborhood Committees, are taking a leading part in the demonstrations of protest. The Working Woman calls upon all working class women's organizations to continue the fight for the immediate release of the Scottsboro defendants.

## Long Hours Forced on Dep't Store Girls

By HARRISON GEORGE

GIRLS, you who work in the department stores of New York City, it will not hurt you any to learn that your bosses and Miss Frances Perkins, state industrial commissioner, have been sitting up nights, figuring out how to make you work harder or longer for the same or less money — and at the same time to pretend being very nice to you.

If you have read a little story in the New York Times of April 9, you will have seen that a very respectable gentleman by the name of Samuel W. Reyburn, president of the Associated Dry Goods Corporation, and one of your slave drivers in Lord and Taylor, was praising the passage in Albany of what is known as the Miller bill, which doctored up the bill passed in 1930, known as the Mastick law, which provided a forty-eight hour week for women in stores and in factories.

Now, girls, the New York Times is a capitalist paper, and is very careful to speak about the new law in a way which would make the reader think that you girls were getting improved conditions; in fact, that Mr. Reyburn is a kind of santa claus.

But what are the facts? Mr. Reyburn, of course, is very careful how he talks. He says that last year's law "was not clear." And he praises this Miller measure, saying that it was worked out "by representatives of the department stores in cooperation with Miss Frances Perkins, state industrial commis-

sioner, and, I understand, several women's organizations."

Girls, you were not born yesterday, and you are wise enough to know that anything "worked out" by your bosses is certain to give you a wallop on the nose. And Mr. Reyburn wants to hide behind a supposedly "impartial" authority of the state government and the supposedly "friendly" women's organizations.

But you girls should realize that the state government is controlled by the bosses, and all these "women's organizations" are bunches of bosses' wives and other old hens whose business it is to see when the bosses get a new idea about speeding you up, that they are furnished with "approval" in the name of these hypocritical old squirts.

For example, about the same law, Miss Mary Dewson, president of the Consumers' League, says that it, the law, is the first one that is an "enforceable forty-eight hour law." Isn't it funny, girls, that any law that the bosses do not like, just can not be enforced? What is Miss Perkins' business, if not to enforce the law? But, because you have no union to enforce it, Miss Perkins lets the bosses do what they darn well like!

Even more, in the Times article, Miss Perkins, like the oily old cat she is, said she believes the new law "marked a new era in cooperation and understanding between the employers, employees and public." This imaginary thing, "the public," is always dragged in to justify some crookedness. But she let the cat out of the bag by saying

that the new law provides "for an arrangement of hours so that the periodical work outside of store hours necessary to the taking of inventories may be feasible." You know what that means, girls! Over-time without pay!

No wonder Mr. Reyburn says "it gives us a law we can work under." He meant it "gives us a law we can over-work the girls under." The damned hypocrite! But also it means more work with fewer girls! It means unemployment for more girls! It means more work for the same or less wages for the girls left! It means that unless you organize in the Trade Union Unity League and put up a fight, you will be skinned alive!

It is only a part of the big campaign of all bosses to cut wages and put more girls on the streets! Don't stand for it! Come down to the Trade Union Unity League headquarters at 16 West Twenty-first street, and let's see what we can do about it. And join the rank and file of all the women workers. Join the ranks of the tens of thousands of workers who are striking on May Day and coming on to the streets all over the country to protest against wage cuts, unemployment and the whole capitalist system in the world;

### SOVIET BILLS FORGED IN BERLIN

A band of forgers attempted to put Soviet bills of exchange into currency here to the value of \$88,000 dollars. The forged bills were offered to a business woman who, in the hope of a large profit, was prepared to pay 200,000 marks for them.

Before the transaction was completed, however, doubts arose as to the genuineness of the bills, and the police arrested four of the forgers.

# Fight Against All Imperialist Wars All Out on Anti-War Day, Aug. 1

## WORKING-CLASS WOMEN:

August, 1931—seventeen years after the first world war, finds the capitalist countries in the throes of the greatest economic crisis and feverishly preparing for war, more devastating than the last imperialist war. The capitalist countries are driving furiously to war, war for more profits, war among themselves and above all, war against the Soviet Union.

In these preparations the United States bankers and their government are playing the leading role. They are building the biggest war machine of all time. The war budget for 1931 alone is the biggest of any country in all history.

Women are being prepared for war. Plans for drafting and conscripting them are already being prepared. Major-General Ely recently declared: "Women will play a greater part in future wars. Governments including our own, have been studying the use of women in war. Women power in many instances supplement, and in other cases, supplant man power in war. Utilization of women in war will grow, in final analysis, out of a new conception of war making, born during the last war. The struggle was so gigantic for countries involved, that war making becomes a national industry."

The "Socialist" Party proposal by Paul Boncour of France, to draft women as well as men, is being followed in the United States.

The fortunes spent for war are being drained from the workers. Billions are spent for war making and not one penny is given the millions of jobless workers, their wives and children plunged into the deepest misery of hunger and suffering.

The coming war will bring even greater miseries upon the working class than the last world war. The greatest sufferers in war are women. The women will be forced to work long hours in dangerous industries, for low wages set by the bosses, denied the right to organize and strike against such conditions. By emergency war laws that will install a capitalist militarist dictatorship, oppressive laws will be enforced against working women. Aerial and gas attacks especially upon munition plants will result in wholesale slaughter of non-combatants as well as soldiers in uniform.

### Talk Peace—Prepare War

Women in general are opposed to war. They know the suffering it brings. Bourgeois woman and organizations use working women's opposition to war by instilling them with pacifism, that is, to plead to the self-same war-mongers to stop war. Many of the war moves such as "peace" conferences, these bourgeois pacifist women organizations hail as a victory are smokescreens for war preparations. Therefore the pacifists, the Socialist Party and the Women's Trade Union League, spread illusions that peace is possible under capitalism, and thus aid directly the war preparations in the U. S. Mrs. Catt, a bourgeois pacifist, tries to hide the real source of war—the capitalist system by saying that war is a men's war. Bourgeois patriotic women are in the forefront in war preparations; especially vicious are the Daughters of the American Revolution, who are spreading all sorts of vicious lying propaganda against the Soviet Union as part of the Fish Committee plans of war against the Soviet Union.

On August First the class conscious working men and women of the world, under the leadership of the Communist Parties and revolutionary unions, will demonstrate their determination to fight against the war-breeding system of unemployment, low wages and hunger; will demonstrate their determination to defend the Soviet Union against imperialist attack, and against the ruling classes of their own countries that are now preparing new blood baths.

### Working Women of all Races! Wives of Workers!

Don't permit yourselves to be fooled by empty talk of peace spread by the tools of the bosses and their government, thru their fascist, patriotic and socialist-pacifist women's organizations. They talk of peace but are preparing behind the scenes for war against the Soviet Union, the only country where the conditions of workers are improving, where there is no unemployment.

Elect delegates in your shops and organizations to the August 1st United Front Conferences being held in your territory.

Join with the rest of the workingclass in demonstration against unemployment and wage cuts.

### ON THE STREETS ON AUGUST 1st!

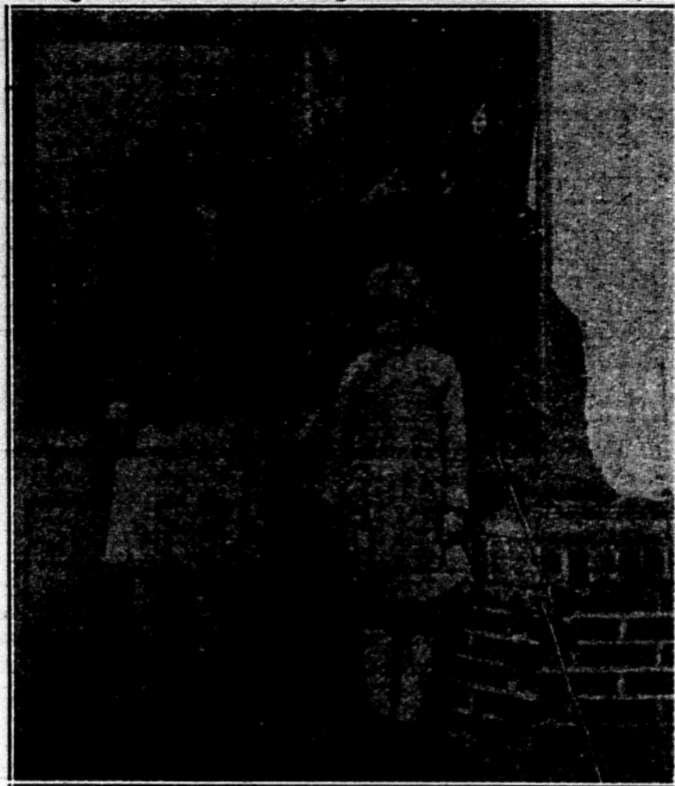
Instead of battleships demand maternity and social insurance.

Not one cent for war—all funds for unemployment relief.

Fight against imperialist war preparations and for defense of the Soviet Union!

CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A.

## Scene of Coal Boss Terror



The relief store in Piercedale where a mine strike sympathizer was shot by brutal sheriff deputies and company thugs, for his activities in the strike.

## Miners Children Rarely Taste Milk Because Parents Pay Is So Low; Can't Buy Clothing

"No, we never get no milk," Johnnie laughed at the very idea. Johnnie is the son of a miner and a miner himself, although he is only seventeen years old. You wouldn't think he was seventeen to look at him, so little he is and so thin.

But Johnnie is a miner, a striking miner of Kinloch, Pa., striking against the Valley Camp Coal Company, which has been paying him \$8 every two weeks for digging coal all day long. Even the \$4 a week Johnnie never sees, because he gets paid in scrip, "Chinese money," Johnnie calls it.

This "Chinese money" is only good at the company store, where, says Johnnie, "You gotta pay any old price they feel like makin' you." Butter, for instance, is 25 cents at the chain store in Kensington, a town not far away, but it's 50 cents at the company store. Three cans of evaporated milk cost 25 cents in Kensington, but 13 cents each can in Kinloch; a pound of spare ribs is 11 cents in Kensington, but 25 cents at the company store. That's how the company robs the workers of the little pay they do get. No wonder Johnnie is little and thin.

"Sometimes we have bread and water in our buckets (the dinner pails they carry into the mine with them) and sometimes we have only water," Johnnie continued. "For supper we have bread and jelly, potatoes and coffee."

### \$11 For Two-Weeks' Work

Johnnie's father gets \$11 to \$18 for two weeks work, but we never sees it either. Before he gets it, 50 cents is taken out of each pay to coal—although he gets only 36 cents a ton for mining it; 75 cents is deducted from his battery lamp; 75 cents for the doctor; and rent and electricity for their three room shanty takes out \$3.50. By the time the food bought as the company store is deducted, Johnnie's father's statement contains "three goose eggs," to use Johnnie's words. Johnnie has a couple of these statements—"rossetes" he calls them and they usually show

that the miner owes the company money.

We asked Johnnie if he had to buy his clothes at the company store, too. "Clothes?" Johnnie asked, "we don't buy no clothes. How can we buy clothes when we ain't got nothin' to eat?"

### Fighting to Live

So this, working women, is the way the miners have been living in the soft coal region around Pittsburgh. It is this inhuman misery that has made the miners walk out under the banner of the National Miners Union. They have found out how the United Mine Workers Union betrays them and they are striking under the leadership of the only militant union, the National Miners Union, affiliated to the Trade Union Unity League.

Their wives and children are with them, marching on the picket line, attending the strike meetings, joining the women's auxiliaries. They are staging their fight against low wages and high living costs on a real battlefield. All the forces of the bosses are marshalled against them—state police, tear gas, mass arrests.

We, working women in other parts of the country must rush to their aid. If your husbands are making more than \$24 a month, remember Johnnie's mother and send a dollar to Pennsylvania-Ohio Miners Relief Committee, Room 517, 611 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa, and do it now. Don't forget that these miners have been working with only bread and water in their dinners pails, and they are carrying on their fight against the array of the bosses and boss government. HELP THEM!

## Low Wages Made it Hard in Coalfields

### The Kitchen Problem

Coverdale, Pa.

June 19, 1931.

I, as a housewife have met with several difficulties in my kitchen. My husband has labored day after day in the mine trying to make a living for his family, but out of all his laboring he only made house rent and the different expenses the company compelled him to pay. He didn't make enough to provide a decent meal. Clothing isn't in it.

Having a family of ten it has been a hard matter to provide sufficient food for them all. I have gone into my kitchen many times to prepare food for my family and didn't have bread nor a slice of meat. When I did happen to get bread I didn't have anything else to go with it.

Most all housewives have met with these difficulties, and we are all tired of such disadvantages in our kitchen.

Mrs. Richardson,  
Coverdale, Pa.

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

of Working Woman, published every month at New York, N. Y.

April 1, 1931

State of New York,

County of New York, ss.

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

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

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

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) Central Committee, Communist Party, U. S. A., P. O. Box 87, 50 E. 13th St., New York City.

Anna Damon, 50 E. 13th St., P. O. Box 87, N. Y. City.  
Caroline Drew, 50 E. 13th St., P. O. Box 87, N. Y. City.

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

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

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

This information is required from daily publications only.

Anna Damon, (Signature of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner.)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of March, 1931.

Max Kitzes

(My commission expires March 31, 1932.)

# ANNIE CLEMENCE—The Story of a Militant Working Woman

By ELLA REEVE (MOTHER) BLOOR

She was born of Slav parents in Michigan. Her father slaved in the Calumet mines for years, and when Annie was about nineteen years old, the Western Federation of Miners began its heroic battle to organize the copper mines.

In 1913-14, although the Calumet Hecla Copper Company, owners of the mines, received at that time, four hundred per cent dividends, and the superintendent received a salary of \$125,000 plus his dividends, the miners received a very low wage. They lived in miserable shacks, and worked in deep, dangerous mines, some even running out under the Portage Lake, hundreds of feet under the ground. These miners used water drills, some of them weighing 175 pounds, holding them high over their heads. The walls of their "Claim" became slippery, and many of them fell to their death.

Their demands, as an organized part of the Western Federation were that two men should work on every drill and for the "right to organize." These demands were torn to shreds when presented in writing to the superintendent. Then ensued one of the most tremendous strikes in our class history.

At this time I was a union organizer in Schenectady, N. Y. We had also had a victorious strike against the General Electric Company, of nearly 15,000 workers, machinists, iron molders, electrical workers, including 2,000 women. On account of our militancy we won the strike in about ten days.

The various unions connected with this strike appreciated my work so much that they gave me \$150 and told me to go up to Michigan and help the women and children in the copper miners' war. It was about Christmas time and it was bitter cold.

The day I arrived the Women's Auxiliary of the Western Federation of Miners, numbering over 400 members, were holding a meeting in the large miners' hall at Calumet. Annie Clemence, the president, came to the door in answer to my knocks and looked me over very critically. "Are you a union woman," she asked. "Show me your card." I showed her my union card and then I said, "Here's my Red card, too."

Her face beamed, as she said, "Come right in, I've got a Red one, too." Here were gathered 400 miners' wives and daughters from all the nearby camps. Their husbands and fathers had been on a strike for five months, but they were full of hope and courage. Annie not only led these Federation women, but she also led the picket lines from camp to camp to encourage the men.

One day while the soldiers were also marching from camp to camp to intimidate the strikers, she had led her group miles from Calumet to a remote camp. On the highway they met another group from Kerenaw mine. Annie was carrying, as she always did, an enormous American flag. The leader of the other group carried a smaller American flag.

Suddenly the soldiers swept down upon them and cut the smaller flag into ribbons. In reporting the incident at union headquarters, Annie said:

"When I saw that man's flag cut to pieces, it made me mad, so," she said, "I held my flag out in front of me and told them to go ahead and shoot me through the flag. Then the workers all over the U. S. would know what they did to their women and children in the copper country, and what they did to their flag." "But," she added, "they did not have the nerve."

On Christmas Day about four o'clock, the children of the strikers gathered in the large Italian hall upstairs. They had just received their presents and were singing, when a door opened on the side of the hall, and a man with a Citizens' Alliance button on his

cap (the Alliance was a strike-breakers' organization) opened the door and yelled "Fire!" There was no smoke, not a semblance of fire, but the children and some of the parents became panic stricken and rushed downstairs. The women, led by Annie, tried to quiet them, and no one realized how many had rushed down. At the foot of the stairs, a box entry had two doors which opened outward. Here the children were caught in a terrible trap.

The deputies and strike breakers

## MOTHER BLOOR



Working Class Woman Leader Active in Workers' Struggles for More Than Generation.

gathered outside the door, held the door shut and, inside of four minutes, seventy-three of our children and a miner who had a child in his arms were suffocated to death. I saw the marks of the children's nails in the plaster six feet from the floor where they had vainly clutched for a breathing place. Then the fiends who were the cause of this tragedy carried the dead children upstairs, and hid them in a row in front of the platform, as Annie was screaming, "Are there any more dead?"

One deputy said, "What are you crying about?" Are any of these your children?"

She cried: "They are all mine." "They are all my brothers and sisters," and then she rushed at some priests, who were praying over the dead, crying, "You scab priests, don't you dare to touch those children of our strikers." The deputies then locked her up in the court house where they took the bodies of the children for the night.

The next day there was mourning in every home. The Citizens' Alliance began to fear that they had gone too far, and sent their women to tell the mothers of the dead children that they would give them money to bury them. In one house a mother had lost three of her children. Here, when the strike-breakers' women came and offered her money, she looked at them in a dazed way and cried, "You want to buy my children, you want to pay for them. I love my children as I love my soul, but I would rather put them in the ground naked than to touch a penny of your blood money."

And so it was in every miner's home. Not one penny was taken from the murderers.

Although all this terrible suffering was kept from the press, the workers' press was putting it out to the world, with photographs of Annie Clemence carrying her American flag draped with Red and black, and one miner, carrying a Red Flag (their only hope).

The miners carried each little white coffin on their shoulders, marching through the snow to the graveyard.

I took Annie with me to all the larger cities of the Middle West to put our case before the labor men of the country and to raise money for the strikers, and their families. She made a great hit with the workers everywhere, with her dramatic stories of the strike, her sense of humor, and her beautiful loyalty to her class.

## Feeding the Hungry Children



Food, clothing and funds are the weapons the miners and their families need in order to carry on their great struggle for decent living and working conditions. Scene above shows food being given to children at an improvised food station, in the coal region.

## Mother Bloor—A Fighter of the Working Class for Many Years

By CHARLOTTE TODES

"Don't think I am getting old. I can work harder, I can fight, and they say I can talk better than ever," writes Ella Reeve Bloor, one of the foremost woman fighters in our ranks who, on July 8, celebrates her 69th birthday, rounding out a half century of uninterrupted activity in the cause of the working class.

Out in the farming regions of North Dakota, where she is now state organizer of the United Farmers' League, Ella Reeve Bloor is doing the pioneer job of winning the poor farmers, their wives and children, into a strong fighting organization to resist the exploitation of the bankers and big farmers who are evicting them from their homes and depriving them of their land. Those who have lived in the "open spaces" of the west know the hardship of organizing workers and farmers separated from each other by hundreds of miles of country and often impassable roads.

Undaunted by these obstacles, Ella Reeve Bloor travels thousands of miles a week to reach remote townships and villages to arouse the farmers to the need of organizing.

The life of Ella Reeve Bloor is an epic of American labor history and a symbol of the fighting spirit of the American working women. For Ella Bloor is known to the miners, the textile workers and to thousands of other workers as "Mother Bloor," and has participated in some of the most heroic struggles of the men and women workers of America against the brutality and oppression of the capitalist class.

A mother of six children, she has nevertheless been in the front ranks in almost every major industrial struggle; among the miners in Ludlow, when the brutal

### WOMEN'S JOB TO END WAR, RICH PACIFIST SAYS

Carrie Chapman Catt, the rich pacifist who occupies herself with organizing other women of the leisure class in peace societies, told one thousand women at a conference at Princeton University that wars are made by men, and the women should stop them!

Rockefeller gunmen set fire to the quarters of the wives and children of the striking miners and burned them to death; in Herrin when miners were murdered and during other strikes and struggles, to build the United Mine Workers of the American Federation of Labor when it was a fighting organization; in Lawrence during the strike of 1912, and in Gastonia.

Many of the forty thousand miners now engaged in a valiant struggle to win better conditions, know Mother Bloor. During the days when the miners, realizing that they must break away from the Lewis machine and overthrow the reactionary leadership of the American Federation of Labor sought to launch a movement for a new militant leadership within the A F of L and organized the Save the Union movement, Mother Bloor went to the mining fields, and helped to organize the campaign which later resulted in a convention at which one thousand delegates were present. Mother Bloor was seated as a regular delegate.

Later when the course of events showed that the only real hope of building a militant leadership and a fighting union for struggle against the exploiting mine operators was in the establishment of a new and revolutionary union free from the corruption and treachery of American Federation of Labor domination, Mother Bloor was active in helping to build the National Miners' Union which is now leading the nationwide strike against the operators. At the historic convention for the launching of the new National Miners' Union, Mother Bloor was a delegate with 25 miners from Indiana which was attacked by thugs hired by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers Association, in a frantic attempt to prevent it. Despite police terror and a cordon of dicks ready to arrest all delegates, the convention was held.

The National Miners' Union was born in struggle to carry on the revolutionary traditions of the miners' union and to fight for a decent wage and living conditions for the tens of thousands of the starving miners and their families. The first local in Kentucky to join the National Miners' Union was organized through the efforts of Mother Bloor. She writes: "The first strike ever won by our militant union was won right there in

Kentucky.

Mother Bloor's activities dates from the days when she first joined the Socialist Party and became one of its national organizers. During the war when the most militant sections of the Socialist Party split away and later formed the Communist Party, Ella Reeve Bloor joined with the left wing socialists and became a charter member of the Communist Party.

Later she became an organizer for the Party and helped form the first state organizations of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

In 1921 Comrade Bloor attended the first congress of the Red Trade Union International as delegate from the left wing trade union groups in America. At this time the first international convention of working women was being held in Moscow. As the only American woman delegate, Comrade Bloor served on the presidium of the convention with Clara Zetkin, the German revolutionary leader, Kolontai, recently ambassador to Mexico and Norway from the Soviet Union, and others. Of this convention Mother Bloor writes:

"Thirty or more women arrived from the far south western part of the U S S R; from Turkestan, Adzerbijian and other sections. They had come by freight trains, wagons, etc. Many of them still wore the heavy Turkish veils. One of them rose to speak and she said, 'Comrades, this motherland of ours seems like a fairy tale to us, we are all sisters in the fight for freedom from slavery.' The women then removed their veils, never to put them on again."

Since then Mother Bloor has also attended conventions in the Soviet Union of the Red Trade Union International and the Communist International. She is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the U. S. A.

On her 69th birthday, the Working Woman, in behalf of the militant working women of the U. S., greet Mother Bloor, and look forward to many more years of activity. Her dauntless courage, her tireless and unceasing work in behalf of the working class and her faith in the working class to conquer is an inspiration to continue the fight for freedom and emancipation of the workers from capitalist rule.

# BEFORE the STRIKE--A Sketch of Hunger in the Coalfields

By ANNA CLARK

"John, get up! The mine works today." Mary shook her son again and as he opened sleepy heavy eyes — she returned to the kitchen to fill his dinner pail.

From the house next door comes sounds of activity. A passing neighbor calls in through the door — "Mary, the mine works today." A rattling automobile, relic of the days when the mine really did work — came to a noisy stop outside of the gate, and the big Slav from the next street, who always gave John a lift to the mine swung himself up the path.

"Hell, Mary! John ain't up yet? Doesn't he know that the mine works today?"

"He is getting up now. It seems he is more tired now when he only works for a few days a month, than he was when he worked every day."

Mary put a few flour and water biscuits, a piece of cooked salt pork, and a few cold boiled potatoes in the pail, and remarked under her breath, speaking more to herself than to the Slav: "No milk or sugar for his coffee, and he hates to drink it black."

"Don't give me coffee at all, Ma, I'll do with water." John came out of the bedroom and washed up at the basin of cold water that Mary had poured out for him. The Slav grunted.

"We work like dogs now since they put that machine in and what do we get at the end of the pay—nothing! Last pay I got \$20 and when they finished checking of, my share was \$2.25." Water biscuits, salt pork and black soffee costs money too, and it does not give a man strength enough to do the devil's work they give us now."

Mary hastily broke in: "Don't talk like that, you are lucky to have work at all. Over in Christopher my sister says they haven't worked for two years now — not a day. We can thank the lord that we have even water biscuits."

"Ma, you don't know what you are talking about. You don't have to work in the mine, you do not have to rush — rush — rush at the conveyor. Why, they are so busy rushing out the coal that they do not pay any attention to making the mine safe to work in. One of these days there will be a cave-in. And the operators will be the murderers."

There was no time for further talk. John and the Slav hurried out to the car, John with a biscuit and a slice of salt pork in his hand. Mary called after him to eat more breakfast, but he was already gone.

Julie, the oldest of John's motherless children, came out of the room where the five children were sleeping. Julie was twelve, but the months of poor food and the hard cold winter had put its brand on her face.

"Gramma, I think Jimmy is sick — he is awful hot."

Mary went into the bedroom, unexcited. It was a common occurrence. Sometimes the whole brood had fever. The last winter had been harder than other winters. But John's youngsters were a tough lot—none of them had died. The woman next door had buried two of hers that winter.

Mary stopped and faced her granddaughter: "Milk! Do you think your pa is a coal operator? He is only a miner. He doesn't make enough to buy you milk. Tell that teacher to mind her own business."

"Well, the bosses' kids get milk and shoes and everything whether the mine works or not. It doesn't look right to me. Now they got those machines. They say that the mine is putting out just as much coal as they did before. The bosses get that coal — they are selling it. It digs as much coal as he did before, but we are starving, hungry, and the bosses' kids get lots of everything."

Mary did not answer. She was

busy with Jimmy. It all sounded so logical what Julie had said. But one cannot let one's grandchildren think that they are smarter than one's self. But Mary kept thinking of the fact that John was digging as much coal per day now as he dug before the machines came in and was getting practically no wages at all. It did look wrong. But what was wrong?

"Gramma," Julie started to dress her youngest sister, "I heard some men talking out by the pool room steps today. That's where I heard about the coal and all. One of the men said that what we gotta do is to organize. Machines, he said, were all right, they were not to blame, but machines must be used to make the work easier for the workers. He said the miners must get the same wages as they did before but should work only six hours a day, and not so hard. He proved it could be done — told us that in Russia they were doing it. Some of the men agreed with him. I think he was right."

"Julie, the miners are organized. They got a union, but it doesn't do no good."

"Then they should get together, Julie, when miners organize and get up a union that will do them good."

among themselves that means lots of trouble, strikes, fights. Some might be killed. We wouldn't even have what we have now."

"Gramma, we haven't anything now. Maybe if we fight, we will get something. If we don't fight



it will go on like now, kids getting sick and dying, nothing to eat, pa going to work hungry. If I were a miner I would rather fight than just go on like this and be like-like cowards."

## Families in N. Y. City Verge on Real Starvation

### While Rich Women Go in Jewels and Taunt Workers in Misery

Vincent Porcellini's shoes flap. There is no money in their family for shoes. Nor do Mr. and Mrs. Porcellini, who live at East 17th Street in New York City, have any money to buy food for Vincent and his nine brothers and sisters. Mr. Porcellini used to work for Burns Bros. Coal Co., but he has been unemployed for two months. The electric light has been turned off and they are using kerosene lamps for light in the heart of New York City, with electric signs blazing on every corner.

The relief they get from the police station consists of one box of split peas, 2 lbs. of prunes, 4 lbs. rice, 2 jars jelly, 5 lbs. old potatoes, 2 lbs. macaroni a week; and they are never sure one week whether they will get it the next.

This is just one case for which the Unemployed Council, Madison Square Branch, is demanding adequate relief. There are thousands of similar homes in New York City and throughout the country.

A few block away, in a more fashionable section, Mrs. S. Etanwood Menken has been robbed of \$200,000 in jewelry. She is accustomed to appearing in public bedecked and bejeweled like a painted poster. Now she is shorn of her jewels and the whole police department is trying to find out who the robber is.

This is always the way. The rich lose a small part of their property and the whole state is on hand to defend them; the workers lose everything and nobody cares. That is nobody, except the Unemployed Councils, the Trade Union Unity League and the Communist Party which are rallying masses to put a stop to these conditions. If you want to join them in their struggles to put wages up and prices down, to gain social insurance for unemployed workers — write to the "Working Woman" and we will let you know the people in your town or city who are carrying on the fight where you are.

### WOMEN IN ENGLAND ORGANIZE STRUGGLE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT AND HIGH RENTS

#### Women's Conference Elects Delegates to National Convention

ENGLAND. — There were 25 delegates present at the Burnley Women's Charter Conference held recently, representing Burnley, Bolton, Farnworth, Blackburn, Nelson, Barrowfield, Hazlendon, and Accrington. Of the delegates present, twenty were industrial women workers, such as weavers, winders, and warpers. Two women delegates were elected to the National Charter Convention, and a resolution in support of the Charter was passed. A delegate was also elected to the F. S. U. Conference. The discussion was good, dealing principally with unemployment and housing. It was agreed to approach the railway company with regard to obtaining concessions for Lancashire women to visit the Bermondsey Town Hall.

## Bosses Prepare Women for their Wars

By S. VAN VEEN

In 1914, Europe mobilized for war and threw eighteen million men and boys into No-Man's-Land and death. In 1917, the United States mobilized another five million for military service. These millions of workers from cities and farms fighting and dying under many flags and with the "blessing" of pope and priests, were told that they were fighting to make the world "safe for democracy," for honor, glory and all the rest of the lies of the ruling class.

More than 12 million were killed during the war. Many millions more were hopelessly crippled, blinded and disabled for life. The workers of the world had been sacrificed but the bankers were satisfied. Many new fortunes had been made.

During the war millions of girls and women in every country including the United States were forced into the mills and factories, chemical, dye works, munition plants, and textile mills. While the soldiers were gassed and blown to bits to "save civilization," the women of the working class were slaving all over the world to put guns in the hands of those at the front. Tens of thousands walked behind the plows of the European countries, and did all the heavy work on the farms.

The Negro women always jimmied and given the hardest and worst paid jobs, suffered even more than the white women in this country. The Negro soldiers were given the most dangerous jobs at the front and the Negro women were forced to slave and starve at home. The U. S. government even jimmied the Negro Gold Star mothers recently sent on a visit to France to see 50 thousand white crosses on the side of a hill.

While the working women were toiling, the ladies of society, wives of bankers and "dollar a year" men were having a good time as usual. They feasted and drank here, as well as in Europe. In New York, London, Paris, Berlin and Leningrad (then St. Petersburg) swell society continued to dine, guzzle and be merry. They were the 100 per cent patriots, like all of their class and boosted the war while the working class was being slaughtered.

The Bosses Want a New War Today the Wall Street government is preparing a new war. Ten millions workers are jobless and crisis grows. The same situation exists in all the imperialist countries. At the same time the capi-

talists see that in the Soviet Union a new economic system is being rapidly built where there is no unemployment and no starvation. The Soviets challenge the capitalist system. The bosses' governments therefore want to crush the Soviet Union. They are afraid of its growth and the success of the Five Year Plan. They fear the growing power of the working class.

#### Slogans For War

For this reason they are cooking up one lie after the other against the Soviet Union, in order to prepare the masses for the new war. Now is the time that they will shout slogans to get the workers to fight against the Soviets. Now is the time when they will appeal particularly to the working women to be patriotic and good Americans and to stand by the Wall Street government in the war against the First Workers' Republic. They will try to win the women for the coming war, just as they tried to win the women in the last war, with the aid of the Red Cross, the churches and other patriotic organizations of the bosses.

From July to December, 1930, 1,127,651,670 dollars was spent for War and Navy Departments of the U. S. government, while the jobless workers' families starve.

Major General Ely said the other day that pretty girls are chosen as officers, in the Reserve Officers' Military Training Camps, in order to lure the boys to sign up for the R. O. T. C.

Every trick is used to get the workers for the new war just as in the last war.

When the bosses call upon the women to help in the next war, when the propagandize the working women with all kinds of lies in order to make it easier to turn the workers into cannon fodder, the working women of the United States should refuse to help in the war of the imperialist governments against the Soviet Union. The working women should answer

### B'klyn Beauty Shop Workers on Strike Against Long Hours

BROOKLYN, N. Y. — Over 1500 beauty shop workers, mostly women, from three hundred shops in Brooklyn, are on strike against the 12 and 13 hour day, and for higher wages to average from \$16 to \$32 for women workers. The day's work has been running from 1 a. m. to 10 and 11 p. m., and strikers are demanding a limitation on the hours.

The Trade Union Unity League calls upon these beauty shop workers to strengthen their program of action to conduct mass picketing and to demand the seven hour working day and the six day week, with equal pay for equal work for all workers together, men and women alike.

### Frightful Misery Can No Longer Be Hidden

An examination of 1,000 school children conducted by the Bellevue-Yorkville Health Demonstration reveal some startling conditions among young students, most of whom come from working class homes.

Out of the children examined, 612 of whom were boys and 388 girls, only twenty-seven were free from more or less serious defects.

that in the Soviet Union under a workers' government there is real protection and real freedom for the women and mothers of the working class, no jobless workers, and no hungry children.

On August 1st we must voice our protest against the new war that is being prepared. On August 1st we must determine that if we ever go to war again, it must be only in the war of the working class against capitalism.

While the Red Cross, the American Legion, the YWCA and the Daughters of the American Revolution howl and dance for war against the Soviet Union, the working women must stand together with their own class, the working class and defend the fatherland of the working class.

# Women in Front Ranks of Miners' Strike! Relief is the Burning Need of the Strikers

## Women Help Lead Picketing of Struck Mines; Determined Smash Hunger Facing Them

### Stunted Children Tell Terrible Story of Starvation in the Mine Fields

(By a Worker Correspondent)

The miners are marching, closing the mines down, striking against starvation. Men, women and children are in the line and often women, some with babies in their arms, take the lead.

Everyone in the mine fields is hungry, having been for three years. In every camp women with anemic children tell of their sacrifices so the children would not be undernourished. But in spite of the fact that the men take potato parings in their dinner bucket, or a chunk of black bread, or just a bucket of water, there is never enough nourishing food for the little ones. Some of the children will never grow into strong healthy men and women.

They have suffered so long from malnutrition—lack of food—that they will be permanently stunted.

Living in the company "patches" in unsanitary small houses, without any conveniences of running water, toilet facilities, or tubs, the miners and their families have been have had their wages cut time working, suffering, starving. They and again, they have been getting two or three days work a week, they have been waiting for the moment when they would be called on strike by the rank and file National Miners' Union.

#### Women Very Active

The women feel they have something to fight for. They know their place is on the picket line, and in the early morning at four, five, six, these women can be found joining the masses on the picket line. They bring their children with them. They are fighting for a chance to live.

The miners and their families are militant. In Kinlock, the 24-hour picket line has the slogan, "they shall not pass." Scabs in cars, buses, on a railroad coach, have been stopped from going into the mine. The few scabs who have been sneaked in with the aid of the deputies, state troopers, coal and iron police are kept prisoners. They are guarded with guns. When they go to the toilet deputies with guns follow to see that they do not escape. They have called out to the pickets that they are with them but can't get out. They come from Cleveland, Ohio, Erie, Pa., and other cities. They were told good jobs were to be had in Pennsylvania, and that there was no trouble.

#### Fenced in "Patches"

Most of the company "patches" are surrounded by high wire fences. In Logan's Ferry the fence was charged during the last strike. This camp is located at the top of a high mountain, and has only one road up. At the present time the company has large flash lights playing on the camp all night long.

The strike has spread from a small camp in Avella to almost all the mines in western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. There are forty thousand miners out.

The bosses are using all forms of terror against the strikers, tear gas, clubs, state police, what the workers call yellow dogs, eviction notices. But the miners' wives are determined to stand by their husbands and see that nothing stops them. They are out to win. The miners are determined to organize the National Miners Union into a mass organization. The women are organizing into the women's auxiliaries of the National Miners' Union.

The miners, their wives and children will march until they win against working and starving.

## Letters from the Penna. Coal Fields

### Organize to Send Strikers Relief!

Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co.

To the reader we are giving full details of the condition of our camp and others, as they are similar to ours. As I am the wife of a miner I have had a tough time. It looks like every time my husband draws his statement the company gets all the money. Have to keep the children from school as they cannot go barefooted.

We have to deal at the company store. Some days when we go to draw script they refuse us saying there is not enough for rent therefore we do not eat.

My husband works three and four days for nothing moving rock, and don't get paid for it and we are a hundred per cent for the National Miners Union, as they are trying to feed us, that is more than the coal company does.

I have lived here three years and out of those many years we have not been able to get a living, sometime bread, and have to beg for shoes. Some families are in worse condition.

Mary Gallo, a Housewife  
House No. 437

## The Lewis Gang

BY A NEGRO MINERS' WIFE

I walked up to two miners who were scabbing,

I said, the miners are fighting against starvation.

One just looked and said nothing, The other approached me with John L. Lewis.

I said, we are not under the faker, John L. Lewis' thumb any more, So he went back as far as 40 years, told of the early strikes,

I said, the miners fought then for a union, and Lewis stole it from them,

Now we are building a real union of our own.

Handed him a National Miners Union card and asked him to sign.

He said no, that he had his home to pay for,

I told him he could not pay for it this-away.

I told him were were going to draft him and put him in the front line trenches.

This was our fight and we meant to win.

Even if the operators were trying to hide behind the new way of spelling scab — with John L. Lewis.

## BABES WHO KNOW HUNGER



Young wives of miners who are fighting the bitter struggle against the regime of hunger in the coal fields, in the hunger march on Washington county seat with babes in their arms.

## Cook Grass to Live in the Mine Fields

### Bad Conditions Hit Children Especially

Zita Lusclani wept. "I am hungry," she said. Zita is the 11-year old daughter of a striking miner and she is staying with Dorothy, a working girl in New York.

It was early in the morning when Zita made her pitiful appeal and Dorothy went to her little kitchen and made her some orange juice. But Zita would not touch it. "I never drank that," she said. Dorothy asked her what she had at home.

"Do you have milk?"

"No."

"Do you have bread," asked Dorothy.

The child shook her head, "Sometimes."

"But what do you eat when you get up?"

"Well," Zita replied, "We usually get some grass and cook it."

So grass is what the children of miners are living on. Grass is what the bosses feed the hungry workers. We must have bread and milk for these children; we must have food for the miners so that they can win their struggle against the mine owners. Zita and thousands like her are hungry. Will we working women stand aside while other workers and their children are battling to live? Of course not. Send all you can spare to the Pennsylvania-Ohio Miners Relief Committee, Room 517, 611 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

## Miner's Wife Tells of Hunger in Penna

### Women and Children Go Around Starved

Johnstown, Pa.

"Working Woman":

As I am a blacklisted miner's wife and writing about some of the conditions here in Johnstown.

In the steel mills of Johnstown many men are laid off. Some of the workers have been cut down to one day a week. Get 40c an hour for 8 hours a day, and for 2 weeks pay they get \$6.40 out of this same pay. The Co. stops \$2.00 for stock and also \$1.00 for the unemployed relief. You can see what the balance is left to live on the next 2 weeks for him and his family.

What must we do, comrades, and women workers. Our place belongs with the working class in the ranks side by side with the men orkers. We women suffer more and more than the men. The men can go out and forget their trouble. But us omen are left in the house to see the needs of the family and the children crying for bread.

Wake up, women workers, Negro and white, join in the Unemployed Council and the women's auxiliary which is under the leadership of the Communist Party.

Miners throughout Johnstown district they are working a few days a week and still facing wage cuts, starving among the miners' family is rapidly growing; women and children starving, barefoot and naked, diseases growing and spreading among the children rapidly because not enough food for them, when here in the U. S. the warehouses are loaded down with food yet the workers' children are starving.

## Miner's Wife Describes the Conditions in Mine Region That Forces Men to Strike

Carnegie, Pa.

Dear Fellow-workers:

I want to tell you something about the conditions in the Bell Mine of the Pittsburgh Coal Co., against which we are striking.

Our husbands are getting 44 cents per ton of coal, but we had no check weighman and how they cheat us! They would give us 2600 and 2800 pounds for 3 ton cars.

They got no pay for dead work. Sometimes we had 50 to 60 inches of slate to clean up and it would take from 8 to 14 hours. They worked all that time without one cent of pay.

They often had to work in water 6 to 10 inches deep.

If our husbands said anything about these miserable conditions the super would say, "John, Mike, Jack, if you don't like things here then tie your tools together and get outside. We don't pay for deadwork because there are plenty of men on the soupline in Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago, and we can get plenty of them to come here. So suit yourself, clean up or get out."

At this mine they have a company store. If we don't trade there our husbands don't keep their jobs. At this store they charge us more than twice as much for everything. Here are some of the prices: sugar 10c a lb., butter 45c a pound, flour \$1.95 for a 50 lb. sack, salt pork 35c a lb., hamburger 35c a lb. The green vegetables are always stale.

Before we get something in the store they find out if we have any money coming, then they make us sign a little red card.

I have not been able to get a pair of shoes in three years.

This past Easter the bosses played a dirty trick on us. They said we could all buy clothes at the company store and the company would take \$5 out of each pay until we were all paid up. But after some of us got the clothes it was all different. We did get one bite of food from the store until all the clothes had been paid in full. One young miner bought a suit and worked 4 months to pay for it. During all that time he did not draw one cent for food.

We were only working two or three days a week, and with the low ages we were all starving.

Now we are on strike and mean to win. We need a little help from other workers. We need relief. We call on all men and women workers and wives of workers to help us win.

A MINER'S WIFE.

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