

THE WORKING WOMAN

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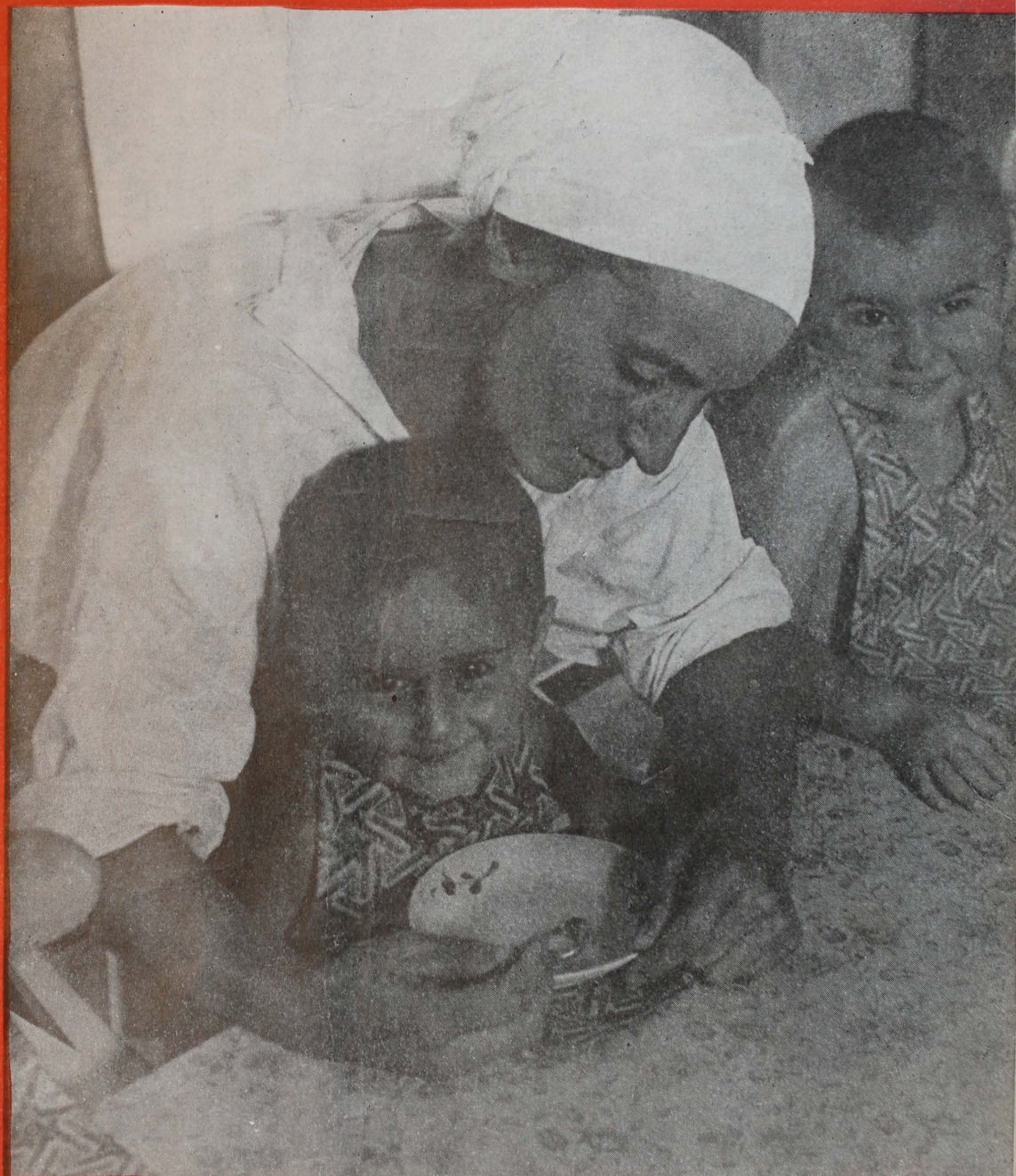
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LIFE OF
EDITH BERKMAN
BY HERSELF

"HARD-BOILED"
BY
MARY HEATON
VORSE

HAPPY CHILDREN IN
THE SOVIET UNION
BY
ALICE
WITHROW FIELD

LETTERS FROM
WORKERS



Soviet Union baby says, "Mama works in the factory while I play here!" (Turn to page 10)

DEMONSTRATE MAY FIRST!

Serial
USA

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ALICE PARK COLLECTION

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DEMONSTRATE MAY FIRST!



Lucy E. Parsons

MAY DAY CALL

Negro and White; Working and Farm Women!
Come out in solidarity on May First!
Fight Against Wage-Cuts, Forced Labor!
Demand Federal Unemployment Insurance!
Demand the release of Tom Mooney,
Scottsboro Boys, Edith Berkman!
Demand a stop to the Fascist Terror,
and the immediate release of Thaelman and all
other political prisoners in Germany!
Fight Against Imperialist War and for the
Defense of the Soviet Union!

MY MAY DAY GREETING TO MY SISTERS:

Women, mothers, comrades, this Call is to you to come out on the first of May and show your solidarity. Join the ranks of your brothers, mingle your protest with theirs and let it be loud and deep against this infamous system that condemns you and your helpless children to a life of misery, poverty and despair.

It is we women who are the most exploited; receive the least pay for our labor and are too often treated with contempt if we have the courage to demand better conditions. How long must we women submit to such humiliating conditions? Just as long as we stand aloof and think that it is a "man's job" to fight capitalism. This is a fight of robbed masses against

the robbing classes, be they men or women.

Negro and white women, demand the immediate release of Tom Mooney, the Scottsboro boys, and Edith Berkman, held in prison by the capitalist class.

In countless numbers let us join the May Day Demonstrations, contribute our influence, lend our assistance to the revolutionary movement that is now sweeping the world.

Women, arise, awake, march, let your echoing footsteps be heard from ocean to ocean and across the seven seas, carrying hope and cheer and our greetings in these days of sorrow.

Lucy E. Parsons.

BUILD THE WORKING WOMAN-STRENGTHEN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST STARVATION

We are now approaching May 1st, the historic day of struggle to improve the conditions of the workers.

May Day 1933 takes place at a time when the Roosevelt administration, under a cloak of liberalism, is delivering ever heavier blows at the working class to save the big bankers and big bosses. The "new deal" was ushered in by the closing of thousands of banks, thus further robbing the workers of their meagre savings, by cutting the relief of the war veterans, the wages of low-paid government workers and the introduction of forced labor camps at a dollar a day, has resulted in the break-up of the home.

In carrying thru the war and starvation program, Roosevelt has the support of the "humanitarian" Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, who agrees fully with it. The latest scheme of still further driving down the standards of living thru the establishment of the thirty hour week with a reduction in pay, and the so-called minimum wage, is the special task of her department.

All these attacks hit the women the hardest. It is they who have to answer the hungry cry of their children for bread, who sink further in misery and despair. The working and farm women are fighting back these attacks.

To keep the women submissive and away from struggle all of the machinery of the government is brought into play—the radio, movies, the church, the schools, and above all, the press. Hundreds of women's magazines are published monthly by the

bosses. They tell the women to be content, to smile their sorrows away, that it isn't lady-like to demand relief, etc. They tell them how to economize, how to live well on thirty cents a day, how to be stylish by making over old clothes and all the rest of the bunk.

In the face of this vicious system, May 1st places the problem of extending the militancy and organization of women before us, of winning them away from capitalist influence.

The need for a women's paper with a clear line of struggle in behalf of the working class women and children becomes more important. The "Working Woman" is the instrument thru which we can carry thru the task.

Many of the districts and women's organizations have recognized this fact and have made use of the magazine, in activating the existing organization and for reaching out to broader activities of struggle among women in factories and among the unemployed.

The present circulation of the "Working Woman" is 8,000. This is not enough. Let us all in the spirit of May 1st carry thru the pledge to build the "Working Woman" into a mass paper, to get the women in motion to demand Federal Unemployment Insurance and immediate relief increases.

Organize working women's correspondence groups. Send in articles, criticisms, suggestions. HELP make the "Working Woman" a magazine liked and understood by the working and farm women.

On with the drive for 1,000 more readers.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE WORKING WOMAN

MAY DAY—1886

A Story by Grace Hutchins

May 1st, 1886, and every worker in Chicago was wondering how many would come out that day in the great strike for the 8 hour day. A monster demonstration of 25,000 on the Sunday before had promised well for the May 1st strike.

"McCormick and his police—they're in an ugly mood, but they can't stop us," Albert Parsons said to his young wife Lucy as he swung off down the street.

Lucy was coming later to join him at another meeting, for she was no sheltered housewife but an organizer of the unemployed. They were called, "tramps" in those bitter years of cold and hunger, when the soup kitchens never had enough for the long lines of jobless workers. And Lucy Parsons wrote articles, "dedicated to tramps," for the workers' paper, **The Alarm**.

More than 40,000 workers came out on strike that day—needle trades workers, lumber workers, metal workers and from the railroad shops of the great Pullman Company. Workers from the McCormick Harvester Works were out, almost to a man. By May 3rd it was a mass strike of over 80,000 men, women and youth.

But Cyrus McCormick was in an ugly mood, as Albert Parsons had said. McCormick was getting rich as quickly as possible and allowed nothing to interfere with his profits. When strikers gathered for a meeting near his plant, a riot call was turned in and the police charged down upon the unarmed workers, shooting into their midst and clubbing right and left. Four workers were killed and many wounded.

Lucy and Albert Parsons escaped unhurt that day, but they and their comrades in the Central Labor Union were burning with indignation over the action of the boss class. Quickly they organized a protest meeting for the next evening, May 4th, at 7:30 P. M. on Haymarket Square.

Parsons was a speaker at that protest meeting when police again charged the workers. A bomb was thrown into the crowd, and a police sergeant was killed. Police quickly opened fire and several were shot down, policemen and workers.

"We shall all be arrested," Albert Parsons told his wife that night.

But he was not among the seven jailed the next day; he had his chance to escape. However since comrades and fellow workers, no more guilty than he of any bomb-throwing, were held for the murder of the sergeant, Albert Parsons came forward during the trial and gave himself up for arrest.

Lucy Parsons fought for their freedom during long, bitter months of struggle. She wrote leaflets, helped to organize demonstrations and kept on with her work at the Central Labor Union. But the workers' movement was not yet strong enough to force their freedom and on November 11, 1887, her husband, Albert Parsons and three other leaders of the left wing movement were put to death by hanging.

Haymarket was the beginning of May Day in the United States. By 1890 May 1st was established as the international working class holiday to be celebrated every year in every country of the world.

And Lucy Parsons has remained loyal to the working class through all the long years that followed Albert Parsons' death. She is now vice-chairman of the Mooney Conference in Chicago. She has never sought personal gain or middle-class comforts. She has lived and fought as a worker, speaking for the International Labor Defense, for all working class prisoners. And each May Day, since that day in Chicago 45 years ago, she has demonstrated in solidarity with the international working class movement.

DEMONSTRATE ON MAY FIRST!

THE WORKING WOMAN

Published Monthly by the Central Committee, Communist Party, U.S.A., Section of the Communist International
Fifty East Thirteenth Street, New York, N. Y.

A MAGAZINE FOR WORKING WOMEN, FARM WOMEN, AND WORKING CLASS HOUSEWIVES

Subscription 50 cents a year in U.S. and colonies and Mexico. Single copy 5 cents. Foreign one dollar.
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ISSUE OF MAY, 1933
VOLUME 4

NUMBER 3

MILLS SHUT DOWN!—NO JOBS—NO PAY

BY AN AMERICAN TEXTILE WORKER

I am a textile worker or rather have been a textile worker for the past nine years and a weaver by trade for five years. My father being a weaver was not able to support the family with his wages, so as soon as I was 14 years of age I was forced to leave school and go to work. I started in a small mill, the Brightwood—a mill which for many years has been closed down. At the time I was working there, skilled workers were getting fairly good pay, but girl-learners were doing all the odd jobs. Those working much harder than the others, were getting \$11.90 (that was nine years ago).

For two years I worked there always hoping that my wages would increase in time. The last two months I worked there I was getting \$13.90, knowing there would be no more increase. When the mill closed down for good, I went to work in the Arlington Mill. I learned to weave and after four days of learning I was given a set of looms (two Knowles looms). The work wasn't any too good but at the time, if working steady, one was able to make from \$18.00 to \$22.00.

That was considered good for the Arlington has always been known to pay the lowest wages in the city of Lawrence. I worked three months steady but, after that either I was working on one loom or out together.

The first year I worked as a weaver my pay averaged about \$16.00. Little by little the work was getting worse, and always the crisis deepened. Many times we were out for six and seven weeks at a time waiting for warps, and then we'd go to work on one loom and we'd be paid at the price of two, then making \$5, \$6 and \$8 a week. In the year 1930 they began to change over these two looms into magazines, giving the weavers six looms instead of two. It was a very hard job, the men weavers could not keep them going and when they were getting \$16 or \$18 it was considered as very good pay. In the month of September, 1931 my looms were changed over into magazines, they had been stopped for over two months during that time I was out of work. However, three days before the October strike I was given a set of 6 looms to start up! For three days I worked like a maniac trying to keep these looms running, which of course was impossible.

The mill bosses did not satisfy themselves in increasing the speed-up. In the first few days of October it was announced that we were getting a 10 per cent wage-cut which caused 23,000 textile workers to come out on strike. Previous to the October strike, in the month of February 10,000 workers came out on strike against one of the most vicious speed-ups ever put across. At that time the National Textile Workers Union was leading the workers in struggle. Edith Berkman now held for deportation at that time the organizer and leader of the workers, was arrested in the midst of the strike together with other leaders of the N. T. W. U.

The militant strike was a partial victory. It would have been 100 per cent victorious had it not been for the betrayal of the citizen committee, and certain clergymen. But I called it a moral victory. Still more bitter was the October strike, for this time we did not have the leadership of the N. T. W. U. only. The mill owners made sure to send in the officials of the American Federation of Labor and the United Textile Workers in order to divide the workers and betray the strike.

After the October strike I did not get my job back because of the fact that I was always on the picket line and also because I was arrested while fighting for my bread and butter. I was out of work for more than thirteen months. So were my father and mother. I finally succeeded in getting a job in a shoe lace factory, which is nothing else but a sweat

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PLENTY OF WORK!

TOLD BY A SOVIET UNION TEXTILE WORKER

I was standing in the aisle between two long rows of looms in one of the big textile factories in the Soviet Union, which employs 15,000 men and women workers, waiting for Maria, who is an excellent weaver and a member of her shop committee. Then she came, swinging down the length of the factory to me, her cheeks pink, eyes bright and with a gay, warm smile for me: "You are the American worker," she said warmly, "please tell all the women workers in America about us, won't you?" And I promised that I would.

"In the Soviet Union now, the workers own everything. Why shouldn't we want to do good work? If everyone does good work for the next six months, we will have enough money to build a new apartment house for 1000 of us! We have one already and we need many more so that we may all have lovely apartments with running hot water and steam heat! Our first building has a lovely sunny children's room where we may leave our little ones, until they are old enough for the school. It has nurses to take care of them. There is a big mechanical laundry where a woman may do her whole week's wash in an hour! We own this factory. The profits go only to build our industries and improve our lives.

"You have asked many questions but I have picked out only one to answer today: 'What happens to the worker who does poor work?' Well! The rest of us get very angry. She is holding up our work, isn't she? So in our wall-newspaper on the bulletin board we first make a picture of her as we have seen her, dozing over her work or looking out the window as the threads break, or, whatever she is doing that is wrong. This will make almost anyone ashamed. If this doesn't have its effect, at our next shop meeting we discuss the worker in her presence. Perhaps she is not doing the work she is best fitted for. The committee tries to place her elsewhere if this is the case. If she is just lazy, this is soon determined. Since we all know of it, it is open and above-board and we try to awaken this sleeping worker! We explain about the new apartment house and how we are trying to build it and that she will benefit too. Doesn't she, too, want a fine clean home? We tell her again, how we fought and died for the right to work for our-

(Continued from page 4)

shop, that moved from Providence, R. I., to Lawrence because it could pay less wages to its workers.

In October of this year it will be two years since I became a member of the National Textile Workers Union and I fully realize and know like thousands of other workers that it is the



Pictures by Maria Morrow

elves and not for the bosses. We ask her if she would rather go back to the old slavery. Needless to say, the response is usually with us, on this.

"In the few cases we have, of workers who quite fail to see what it is we want to do—we use our strongest weapon. At a meeting of the whole factory, the worker's history, both medical and social, is read out to all, and a vote is taken.

"Is this worker to be suspended?' If a majority of hands is raised she is suspended without pay, but will be given a new chance at her own request. No one wants to starve and all who want to eat must work. This is fair enough, isn't it?

"This is the way we govern ourselves. We are working toward a fine life for all. Tell your comrades this: Throw away the chains of slavery and follow the Soviet woman! She calls you. Do you hear?"

By BARBARA ALEXANDER.

only Union fighting for the interests of the workers. And we see that our Union does not quit because of terror and hardship. And now more than ever our Union—the National Textile Workers Union—is getting ready, is uniting the textile workers, both employed and unemployed, for great struggles, which will be victorious ones.

By MARGARET LOCKWOOD





Ruby Bates. She had the courage to testify honestly in a hostile court.

«HARD BOILED»

By
MARY HEATON VORSE

Eye-witness of trial at Decatur, Ala.

The trial of Haywood Patterson, one of the Scottsboro boys recently sentenced to death for alleged assault on Victoria Price, exposes how corrupt the capitalist society is in which we live. It spread open the sore of the class dominion of the courts thru the violation of the

Fourteenth Amendment by excluding Negroes from all Southern juries. It indicted the South by proving that there is no such thing as justice for a Negro in a Southern court. A county official said to me:

"The trial was over soon as a white woman said the nigger was guilty. That jury didn't need to know anything more." It was a sure thing that as they heard that, they were going to bring in a conviction with the death sentence. A woman who had proved herself a perjurer, who had three convictions against her on the police records of her home town, who had a motive for her crime of both revenge and self-preservation, opens her mouth and accuses a Negro; and he is as good as dead, unless the workers of the country mass themselves behind him.

Victoria Price by her unsupported word condemned Haywood Patterson to death. Her companion, Ruby Bates, has recanted and has sworn no Negro was ever near them. Haywood Patterson, however, was accused and condemned by something far more terrible and far greater than Victoria Price. His real accuser and would-be executioner is poverty and bad conditions—the frightful conditions which surrounded every footstep which Victoria Price has taken during the short years of her life.

As you go thru the railway yards of Huntsville, there are acre on acre of mean two-room shacks and a lean-to behind, perched over the mud on brick posts. Instead of flowers, mud and litter. Instead of any green thing, festering garbage piles and tin cans. Not far away are the high towers of the mills. It was along such streets Victoria Price and Ruby Bates walked. Here in the mills they worked for a few dollars a week, ten and twelve hours a day. And then the work stopped, and there was work only a day or two a week. So these two girls, Ruby Babes and Victoria Price, who had never had a chance, who had

lived without a glimpse of loveliness, who did not know there was such a thing as aspiration and beauty in the world, had their shabby love affairs promiscuously in the jungles and hobo camps. They got diseased, they got jail sentences. That was all that the great capitalist country of America had to give these girls. All that this great country and the great State of Alabama had for Ruby Bates and Victoria Price was such frightful conditions that it was a relief to put on overalls over three dresses and catch rides on freight trains, and sleep with boys in freight car boxes, and arrive penniless in a hobo camp while their light-o'-loves went off "stemming" for food, while the girls planned how they would go West and "hustle the towns."

The conditions under which Victoria Price lived were so hard, the vice with which she was confronted so low, that in her twenties she is harder than any product of city streets; so cruel, so pitiless that a New York tart would seem a model of soft womanliness beside her. Yet she was made of firm enough material. Dimly one can see an outline of what her life might have meant if there had ever been a ray of hope, a small chance for her. There never was.

So this act of injustice is not that of one vicious girl. It is that of the vicious system behind her, that of the relentless grinding of a breaking-down civilization which is squeezing out into the hobo camps and jungles 200,000 boys and girls.



Mrs. Janie Patterson, mother of Heywood Patterson, who was recently found guilty by a white jury.

TOM MOONEY



Reading from left to right: Tom Mooney, B. D. Amis, Mother Mooney and Louis J. Engdahl.



Tom Mooney, militant labor leader of San Francisco's street car strike, has been in jail these 17 years, though his innocence has been proven time and again. Only the mass pressure of the workers has kept Tom Mooney alive. A call to the working class has been issued by Tom Mooney to the Free Tom Mooney Congress to be held in Chicago from April 30 to May 2. His new trial is set for April 26. Here are the facts of Tom Mooney's arrest and conviction frame-up.

On July 22, 1916, a bomb exploded in San Francisco during a war preparedness parade killing 10 people. Despite the evidence produced which showed Tom Mooney to be two miles away at the time of the crime, Martin Swanson and District Attorney Charles Fickert, both tools of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company wanted to get rid of Tom Mooney for his militant leadership of the traction strikers. He was framed-up and convicted on a charge of murder on the testimony of witnesses later proven to be in the pay of Fickert; on February 24, 1917.

In 1918 the Densmore report of the U. S. Department of Labor disclosed that a dictaphone concealed in District Attorney Fickert's office revealed the details of the frame-up in Fickert's own voice. In 1930

Governor Young of California reported to the State Legislature that his investigation proved the whole case a frame-up.

President Hoover's own Wickersham Commission reported the Mooney trial a frame-up. In addition, in September 1932, Paul Callicotte, a mountain guide of Portland, Oregon, confessed he had unwittingly left the valise containing the bomb which later had exploded.

In spite of all this proof of Tom Mooney's innocence Governor Rolph has refused to pardon him, but the workers of America and Europe have continuously sent thunderous rounds of protest against this false conviction. In 1932 Mrs. Mooney, 85 year old mother of Tom, toured Europe in his behalf. She was enthusiastically greeted everywhere with pledges of continued support. Hundreds of workers' organizations have joined in the fight for his freedom.

The Mooney Molders' Defense Committee has sent out a call for a Free Tom Mooney Congress. Negro and white, working and farm women, show your solidarity! Rally in mass demonstrations. Join the fight to free Tom Mooney! Demonstrate on May 1st—the worker's day of struggle against the frame-up of Tom Mooney and all working class prisoners.

SCOTTSBORO CALENDAR

March 26, 1931.—Nine jobless Negro boys riding a freight train in search for work. Arrested at Paint Rock, Ala. Charge: raping two white girls—Ruby Bates and Victoria Price.

April 6, 1931.—Trial at Scottsboro, Ala. Found guilty by white jury. Seven sentenced to die—two youngest, life imprisonment. The International Labor Defense, recognizing the innocence of the boys, starts a campaign of protest meetings all over the country against unfair trial. Case appealed.

December 29, 1931.—Clarence Darrow refused to work on case with I. L. D.

March 24, 1932.—Supreme Court of Alabama over-ruled motion for new trial. Date of execution set for June 24, 1932. Petitions filed to United States Supreme Court. Ada Wright, mother of two boys, with Secretary of I. L. D. tours Europe. Storm of workers' protest aroused the workers of the whole world.

November 7, 1932.—The United States Supreme Court grants a new trial, as a result of world-wide protest.

December 8, 1932.—Trial set for March, 1933.

January 23, 1933.—Letter from Ruby Bates denying all her previous charges. She had been threatened by the police and with lynching by Southern property owners.

April 5, 1933.—New trial. Heywood Patterson, first of the boys to be tried, was again found guilty by white jury of the ruling class of Alabama. Sentenced to die—Decatur, Ala.

April, 1933.—I. L. D. appeals case to the Supreme Court of U. S. A. Judge Horton forced to admit trial unfair—attempts shift responsibility for this to the defense.

Women, join in protest demonstrations! Save these innocent boys from being burned to death! Support the gigantic march to Washington, D. C.!



BEYOND THE POLAR CIRCLE

A story send from the Soviet Union by A. Klimov and V. Stalsky

The beginning of this story told about a Russian visitor to the Arctic Circle who had been sent from Moscow to teach and help the Samoyedes, who were unaware of the great social changes in their own country.

Second Part.

"Shameless creature," snarled Yaptik. "You know that you are not to speak to the stranger. I have more trouble with you than with all the others."

He twisted her long braids around his hand until her head was strained back on her shoulders. Although she did not cry out her pale face was distorted with pain.

"If I catch you again you will be flogged, and you know what that feels like." He nodded toward a long, slender, black leather whip which dangled from the ridge pole. "Now go."

He pushed her so violently that she fell on the icy floor where she lay still for a moment before rising slowly to her feet. She limped to the womens' corner, and sat with bowed head rubbing her knees.

The stranger was angry, too. He stood up and they could see that he was a big, powerful man.

"It was not the girl's fault," he said harshly. "I have been showing her some of the gifts which have been sent from Moscow. What kind of a country is this where it is a crime to talk to a stranger?"

Yaptik scowled. "She should know her place," he muttered. "What gifts have you brought?"

"Good steel knives, fish hooks, blankets, rifles. You will see tonight at the big meeting. There are gifts for men and women."

"The women will not be there," growled Yaptik, doggedly, his greasy face dark with anger, his small,

slanting black eyes glinting with irritation. A few men crowded behind him in the entrance, and talked to each other in undertones.

"I say that the women are to come," retorted the visitor, in an even tone.

There was a gathering tension in the smoky room. Yaptik lowered his head like an angry bull, and his right hand grasped a short dagger of bone which was thrust through his belt. The stranger continued to stare coldly, his arms folded. From her corner Anna Khorolia glanced up with wild hopefulness at the stranger who seemed utterly different from the kindly visitor of a few minutes before.

"They shall not go!" shouted Yaptik, enraged. "It is not our custom, and you can not come here from Moscow, and tell us what to do."

The Russian shrugged his shoulders indifferently, picked up his fur lined coat and cap in silence, gathered his bags, and strode to the entrance.

"Wait! Where are you going?"

"To the next village. If the women do not come there will be no meeting."

The stranger glanced with a slight smile at the half drawn dagger in Yaptik's hand.

"Yes," said the Russian, looking calmly into the menacing faces before him, "you can kill me and take the gifts. I am no match for all of you. But there will be no more presents for this tribe when the Soviet Union learns what has happened. I have been sent here not only to bring you blankets and guns and knives, but to tell you about the great changes which are taking place in Russia. That is why there was to be a meeting tonight."

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You're telling me!

DRAWINGS BY
GROPPER

ROOSEVELT NAMES JOBLESS ARMY HEAD AT \$10,200 SALARY

(Daily Mirror, April 6)

Secretary of Labor Perkins is "firm in defense" of this Roosevelt forced labor scheme. She "denies plan has flaws." We bet the head of the jobless army at \$10,200 also "denies plan has flaws."



The Rev. Dr. Keigwin in his sermon on March 19th talked on "the advantages of poverty" as a "stabilizer for the people" and an "inspiration for generosity."

"I don't know what we would do without poverty in the world," said Dr. Keigwin, as quoted in the New York Times.

Well Doc, without poverty you would have to do without things like this:

SON'S SUICIDE STOPS EVICTION OF PARENTS

(Daily Mirror, April 6)



BRINGS HOME JOB—FINDS BABY DYING—WIFE A SUICIDE

(after being out of work six months)

(Daily News, April 12)

SPRING STYLES

Up at Jay-Thorp's you can get dresses for \$125— and up; and coats for \$135 and up. "Very distinguished spring clothes," says their advertisement.

And Saks—Fifth Avenue, have some lovely corsets at \$75 with superbly shaped foundation garments for as low as \$35.

Joan in the Daily Mirror is full of beauty suggestions:

Turtle oil cream and strawberry cleansing massage cream at 50c a jar—"the perfect combination to keep your complexion in order."

"The most marvelous eyelash grower" for only \$2.

"In four days you can change your worn, sallow complexion for a youthful clear skin"—for \$20 (regular fee \$100).

Imagine such a bargain. And above all, get yourself a set of gold fingernails—yes, solid gold, fitted to your fingers. We don't know what you do with them when you get them fitted, but we'll inquire—and we'll get the price for you.

We are sending all these suggestions to the Welfare Council which is collecting clothing for "Nearly one million men, women and children who are desperately in need of clothes—according to the committee's chairman, Mrs. Bayard James.



GOVERNOR THREATENS TO CONFISCATE WEALTH

(to relieve the unemployed)

(Daily Mirror, April 14)

In the Soviet Union the workers didn't threaten—they went ahead and did it. Now there's no need for unemployment relief. There are no unemployed.

HAPPY CHILDREN IN THE SOVIET UNION

By Alice Withrow Field

Mrs. Smith is going to have her first child. Her neighbors are congratulating her but she is not so sure. Of course she would enjoy a baby, she always liked those of her friends, but Jim Smith lost his job one short month after they were married—that was almost a year ago and nothing has turned up yet for him. They have been living on her own slim wages from the factory and she has not minded the hard work. Somehow they have managed to get along, but now the future looks pretty black. Already she

fires more easily and before long it will be impossible to turn out her share of work. And even if she manages to stay on at the factory until the last minute there will be a hundred girls eager to grab her job as soon as she leaves.

That is not all.—How is she going to buy clothing for the baby? They have barely enough for themselves. Making the things is no answer, for how is she going to sew when she is so worn out after the long day's work and the housework besides? How is she going to keep her husband cheerful after his endless job hunting when she herself is tired enough to scream all the time?

First she had thought she would go to a hospital but they tell her that the wards are crowded. Perhaps it would be cheaper to stay home anyhow—other women have to, and besides she is more likely to hear of another job at home. Even if they do get thru with this all right, how does she know when she will find work again? Yes, she had better stay home—it is just possible that they might not evict a woman with a tiny baby but they wouldn't mind turning a man into the streets, when his funds are gone, even if his wife were in the hospital.

And the neighbors—they are kind but disheartening and filled with terrible stories of childbirth. Is it really true that once you've had a baby you are bound to have another within a year? Some people don't but perhaps they are just lucky. Look at the hundreds of children in the tenements! It's enough to make you hate your husband. If only Jim had a job! Most everyone says that women shouldn't expect anything else.—Life is like that and always has been. They say one woman right in this building went crazy and killed herself, but that didn't help her children any. Someone else claims she has heard that during the war in Russia, when the people revolted, the women demanded the right to work and have children too. Any working mother would welcome a fight for something like that but it seems impossible here and nobody in the neighborhood knows much about it. So what is Mrs. Smith to do?

This is true about the Soviet Union. There a woman factory worker does not now have these fears when she expects a baby. This is why. As soon as she is sure that a child is coming she goes to the nearest maternity clinic for advice. The doctors there tell her what to eat, how long to sleep, and how much work she can do. They give her a card which allows her to rest at any time and in any place when she is tired. The clinic notifies her factory to lighten her work but her wages remain the same. If she is not strong they get her a vacation from the factory with full pay. In any case, she gets a six to eight week holiday (according to the type of work she does) both before and after her baby is born. She is allowed to buy special foods for no extra cost and well in advance of her confinement she is given sufficient funds

Author of "Protection of Women and Children in Soviet Russia."

(by the government which insures all working mothers) to buy clothing for the baby. This insurance pays for the clinic and the hospital; it also pays for the baby's milk whenever needed during the first six months. Before leaving the hospital she is told that to have children too close together will ruin her health and so will abortions. This is no careless warning for she is immediately sent to the birth control clinic where she is given the help she needs.

When she returns to the factory her job is still there. Often there is a nursery in the factory where she may leave her baby in good hands if there is no one at home to care for it. As long as she is nursing it she is allowed to leave her work to do so. The nursery takes care of her child during working hours for three years—a service which is paid by her insurance.

This is why a factory worker in the Soviet Union can have a baby without Mrs. Smith's fears. Because the Soviet Government want its women to be healthy and its children strong and happy, the future is in their hands. Because their parents have fought and starved for their rights, now at last the men, women, and children of that country are free to live as human beings.



These pictures by courtesy of Wm. B. Osgood Field, Jr.



The Soviet Union is a country owned and run by the workers, for the benefit of all.

Top picture: Youngster knows how to wash face; basin is a little high; look out!

Middle picture: "We must all help one another. Please stand still!"

Bottom picture: Time for a lesson. Now, what is the name of that?



International News Photo



OUR WOMEN FIGHTERS

"UNDESIRABLE"

By EDITH BERKMAN

I started to work at the age of 15. When I came to America in 1921, I found a job in a knitting mill in Cleveland, Ohio. In this mill I learned, the hardship of the textile workers. I worked with men and women of all nationalities, American and foreign-born. When a new method of "speed-up" was introduced, or the old machines replaced with new faster machines, it was for all of us. When wage cuts came, the wages of all workers were cut. This proved to me the need for unity of all workers, the need of a Union to stop speed-ups and wage cuts.

From Cleveland, Ohio, I moved with my family to California (The state that is keeping Tom Mooney in its dungeon for 17 years, for his loyalty to the workers.) There I joined the American Federation of Labor, and was a delegate from my union to the Central Labor Council. As a member of the A. F. of L. I learned that the A. F. of L. unions are run by highly paid officials. They sell themselves to the boss-class and always betray the working class.

I always studied and read a great deal about the struggles of working people. I followed up with great interest all the strike struggles. When the textile workers of Passaic, N. J. were on strike I helped raise funds for the strikers. In 1928 during the strike of the New Bedford textile workers, a "new union" the National Textile Workers Union was formed. This Union brought a partial victory to the workers. I made up my mind to give all my time to build this "new textile workers union," and when after the 1929 Gastonia textile strike the leaders were framed up and arrested and the union named "The Red Union" (because it is a fighting union of the workers), I left California, went to New York, found a job in a knitting mill, and joined the "Red Union." A

FREE EDITH BERKMAN!

Two years have passed since the U. S. Immigration Department, at the instigation of the Woolen Trust of Lawrence, snatched Edith Berkman from the ranks of the striking textile workers of Lawrence, Mass. She has been held a prisoner ever since.

Edith Berkman, a young and militant girl of 25 or 26 was sent to Lawrence, Mass., by the National Textile Workers Union in the summer of 1930. Here, Edith began to organize the miserable, poorly paid textile workers of the American Woolen Company.

The big strike of 10,000 workers began in February 1931, with a group of combbers in one mill, starting as a protest against an introduction of the nine comb system in the American Woolen Mills. Under the



Above Edith Berkman is shown with William Z. Foster, who visited her in the hospital. Hounded by immigration officers, persecuted, jailed for over two years, and was ordered deported as an "undesirable" alien to Fascist Poland. Dangerously ill with tuberculosis, unable to travel, she is still in the clutches of the immigration authorities who refuse to release her.

few months later, the National Office of the Union asked me to go to Lawrence, Mass., to help build the Union there.

I went to Lawrence. There I lived with a worker's family. I visited the workers in their houses, spoke to them about the need of organization—the need of a Union. Small meetings of workers working in one mill, or one department, was held. After a few months of quiet work, a meeting of the most active union members was held and we decided to organize one mill first. We then called together 5 workers of this one mill. They talked over all the hardships in the mill. They became the organizational committee. Leaflets were then made and given out inside and outside of the mill. The workers soon began to talk about the union. We then agreed that I, as organizer of the union, speak in front of the mill. I spoke.

When the mill-owners were going to lay off some workers and double up the work on the rest, the workers organizational committee was on the job. The Union members called upon all workers to stick together and not give in to the new scheme. The

By ANN BURLAK, National Secretary

leadership of the National Textile Workers Union the strike quickly spread to the three American Woolen Mills of Lawrence. The picket lines were the most militant seen, the mills were closed down tight. It is extremely interesting for us to note that the first struggle in the Pacific Mill was started and won by a Department of women.

Immigration officers and local police broke into the Strike Committee meeting arresting the leaders of the strike—Edith Berkman, Pat Devine and Bill Murdock, also a number of members of the Strike Committee. The office, in which they were meeting, was smashed. Then Immigration Officers raided scores of homes of Lawrence workers, questioning them and terrorizing them with deportation threats.

DEFEND THE FOREIGN-BORN!

workers in the hundreds joined the union. The lay-off was stopped. The N.T.W.U. became known as a fighting union and when the mill owners demanded that the women workers start to work at 6 in the morning the women joined the union, organized a strike and after two days the strike was won!

FEBRUARY STRIKE

Efficiency experts came to the Lawrence mills. With them came lay-offs and speed-up. Every day hundreds of workers found themselves in the jobless army. In February, 1931, one department of 40 workers went out on strike. In three days the National Textile Workers Union organized 10,000 workers in a sympathy strike. The strike lasted 10 days. Police, spies, priests and bankers united to break the solidarity of the strikers.

During this strike I was arrested. I was charged with the terrible crime of being a foreign born worker who dared to give active leadership to the workers. The workers themselves came to my defense. Through the International Labor Defense my case was brought into court and I was released on bail—I went back to Lawrence. The strikers went back to work with a partial victory—the efficiency experts were taken out of the mills.

A short time after the strike, the A. F. of L. sell-out officials, were brought to Lawrence by the mill-owners. This, to win the workers away from the N.T.W.U.—the "Red Union." And a general 10% wage cut was announced. The A. F. of L.—"Yellow Unions" officials said: "These are bad times. Strikes are bad for the workers." The workers organized in the Red Union said: "It is true that times are bad. But if there will be wage cuts we will strike. Not a Penny

off the pay!" When the wage cut was given, 23 thousand workers went out on strike. I was again arrested.

For over two years now I have been persecuted. As a result of my treatment, I am now sick. But in Lawrence we have now not only a Union but also a Women's Club who carry on the fight for better working conditions. In my Union work I found the women workers to be the bravest fighters against starvation. I have all hopes that the workers will force the Department of Labor to give me my freedom so that I may once again be useful.

Demand from Frances Perkins that she cancel the deportation order! She has the power to give me my freedom!

Cops hurl tear gas bombs, savagely swing night sticks in an attempt to break textile strike.



TERROR IN STRIKE FIELD

Textile Workers' Union

FIGHT FOR HER RELEASE!

During the entire summer dissatisfaction brewed in Lawrence and workers began talking "strike" again. Despite the threat of deportation to fascist Poland Edith Berkman again went to Lawrence at the end of September, 1931, and prepared the workers to strike against a 10% wage-cut which was to go into effect in October. The workers struck again, this time 23,000 strong. Doak had his watch-dogs on the job, they seized Edith Berkman, revoked her bail and threw her into prison.

For nine months the Immigration Officials kept her in the prison at East Boston. Physically, she never was a very strong girl, but this trying period in prison broke her health completely and she had to be removed to a sanatorium because she had contracted

tuberculosis, but they could not break her marvelously militant and cheerful spirit.

Edith Berkman went on a hunger strike as a protest against being held for deportation.

The case of Edith Berkman is a symbol of the struggle of the American working class against the deportation of militant workers. We must force Miss Perkins, present Secretary of Labor, to come out into the open with her position. We must send telegrams of protest to Miss Perkins demanding a stop to deportations—demanding the immediate release of Edith Berkman.

Working women, lead the way!



WOMAN'S VOICE

NO JOBS—NO RELIEF

In Kensington you see nothing but the closed factory buildings, "no help wanted" signs, and thru the dusty windows the machines are falling apart. On the streets children play in ragged, torn clothing that was woven in these mills in the so-called "prosperity" days of 1928-29. Mothers come to the door to call the children in to the scanty, thin soup that is all they have for lunch.

A few shops are still running, and how! At the Concordia Silk Mills twenty year old girls get \$8.00 for two weeks' work; they work the full "legal" time—54 hours, so the pay is 7 1/2 cents an hour for 108 hours' work. And now this shop has just received a 10% wage cut.

In a cushion top factory, a girl made 33 cents a day; she got only 12 cents a hundred and the strain of trying to speed-up so that she could make at least enough for her carfare and lunches made her very sick, so she was fired by the boss, because "she was sleeping on the job."

Girls though married, hoping to save their own earnings to buy a home and eventually stop work and raise a family, find that they are now doing "double duty." With their husbands out of work, they are trying to raise a family and support it too, out of their own reduced wages. There are only two day nurseries in all Kensington, taking care of 80 children out of the many thousands of children of women workers in this community. The average wage of the women hosiery toppers is \$12.00 a week for a full 48 hour week; that of women working in the auxiliary trades is much less—about \$6.00 a week, and the majority work only a few weeks a year.

This constantly being in and out of work causes the relief to be shut on and off like a water faucet. As soon as you get a job your relief is cut off. And in our Women's League meeting, women reported that half the time they are out of work, and waiting to be placed on the relief list again, resulting in several weeks with no relief and no job—no income at all. "It almost drives me crazy," one of the comrades said, and expressed the feeling of all of us.

The women of Kensington, the wives of textile workers and women workers in the mills are not taking this lying down. We are organizing and we will fight. Fight against wage cuts, for increase in wages, better conditions in the shops, against cut in relief, for adequate cash relief, at all times we fight for Unemployment and Social Insurance.

We send comradely greetings thru the WORKING WOMAN to our sisters in the Textile industry all over the country and in the Soviet Union.

A Textile Worker.

SPPED-UP KILLS AUTO WORKER

The Women's Auxiliary and fellow workers are in sympathy with Mrs. Szyskoski in regards to the death of her husband.

Here are the facts, fellow workers.

Anthony Szyskoski worked in the Hudson Motor Company. Tony contracted a cold which kept him out of work for a week. Still in no condition to work Tony was forced to return. He worked a day or so when the plant was called out on strike. He too walked out. He told his wife they were out on strike. She said, "that's the only chance you have to rest up." Tony said, "No, this is the time I must stick with my fellow workers. It is my duty as well as the duty of every one of us to go on the picket line."

Tony caught a severe cold at this time which developed into pneumonia. The doctor prescribed medicines for which Tony's wife had no money. Mrs. Szyskoski put her coat and hat on in zero weather and walked six blocks to the Hudson Employment Office to get the pay that was coming to Tony, for medicine. They refused to give it to her as Tony was too sick to sign the pay stub. She explained to them that Tony was in a dying condition and could not sign and that the money was absolutely necessary to buy medicines with. They still refused her. So you might know how his wife felt going home from that office. The money was earned by his own hands and she could not get it to save his life. Another worker interfered and took the unsigned pay stub to the Hudson Motor Company officials and forced them to pay Tony.



An official accompanied him to the house. Tony's wife told them: "The Hudson Motor Car Company worked Tony so hard that when he came home at night he was too tired to eat. Many, many nights he went right to bed."

Therefore Tony with medicine that came too late and a lowered resistance due to overwork and speed-up, died. His last words were, "I know I'm two jobs behind, but don't rush me. I'll catch up!"

Fellow workers through organization and a solid front such things won't occur.

An Auto Worker's Wife, Detroit.

THEY GOT THE SHOES!

A group of us women here in Detroit went to the Davison Welfare station last week to demand shoes. Mrs. Frederick is supervisor of this station. She tried to get out of it and not succeeding in this way she refused us point blank. But we women took off our torn and broken shoes, sat down and refused to move away unless we got shoes fit to walk in. One of our women even told the Welfare woman that unless she got the shoes which she needed so badly by the next day, Friday, April the 7th, she would come back and take them off the Welfare woman's feet. We got the shoes too! By sticking together, by a definite fighting program we forced the Welfare Agency here in Detroit to know that we not only needed the shoes but we meant business in the matter of getting them.

R. L., Detroit.

CHILDREN STARVE—MOTHER A SUICIDE

Mrs. Vasil Smolik—age 35—committed suicide on March 14th. They were getting \$10 a month relief for herself and five children and her husband. For almost two weeks they did not have any food. Children had hardly any clothes in which to go to school. She was told by the Unemployed Council not to send her children to school. She said that they had to go because it was the pint of milk which they got in school that they had as food. She said that she was not able to face it any longer.

First she attempted her life by trying to hang herself, but she did not succeed. Then the second night she cut her throat with a razor.

500 workers attended the funeral. The condition and act of this woman has roused the other women in the vicinity. They have organized delegates of women through the Unemployed Councils and have sent these women before the county commissioners demanding more relief, and the welfare officials could not reason with the women who saw the needs of their children, that they should accept what relief is given to them.

The children of this woman did not have any clothes to go to the funeral. The workers went to the county commissioner to demand some clothes for them. The commissioner refused. A business man gave them \$6 to buy clothes so that they could go to the funeral.

M., Whitney, Pa.

WILL FORCE RED CROSS RELIEF

Here in Finleyville the Red Cross established a station for clothing. Two weeks ago, one of our women went down to get a dress for herself. They gave her only one, and the next week she went to get some more, but Mrs. McChain and Boyer, who is in charge

told her to wash the one at night so it dries, then she will be able to put it on in the morning.

But we women of our Auxiliary took this question up. We all are organized, ready to march down this Friday and will have our lists of names of all those in need of immediate clothing, women and children both.

We all are determined to take the clothes ourselves if relief will not be given in a peaceful way.

J. R.—, Member of Women's Auxiliary, National Miners Union.

WELFARE GIVES "ADVICE"—REFUSES AID

Working women, has the time come when the Welfare Agency here in Cleveland can tell us how to use rags? Here is the advice given one of our women who asked them for cement to mend a rusted, leaky wash-tub. The letter follows:

"Dear Mrs.—:

"It is impossible for us to get anything to mend your tub at this time. We are advised to tell you to get a little rag and stuff it into the hole in your tub and it will keep the tub from leaking.

"Thank you.

(Signed) Mrs. Eichler, Cleveland Welfare Agency.

Mrs. Eichler, do you really think working women who have spent their lives washing, working and mending do not know how to fix a leaky tub? No! This is just one more sample of the nasty way in which the Welfare Agency treats a working woman.

There is only one answer to give. We will organize and fight not for rags for leaky tubs, but for new tubs, for clothes and food and the things which workers alone produce and of which the rich have had possession of too long.

60 HOURS WORK—3 DOLLARS PAY

I am a girl, 18 years old, working in a sweater factory in Kensington, Pa. In ordinary times, when working full time, two years ago, I used to make \$13 a week. In the last two years we received wage cuts amounting to 50% and we are working only part time. At the same time we have to be in the factory all day sitting around and waiting for work. We are on a piecework system. Most of the time I make about \$3.00 a week and work 10 hours a day, from 7:30 to 5:30. Out of that I have to pay my carfare. The conditions in the factory are very bad. We have no towels nor soap. The toilets don't get cleaned but once a month, and the air is very bad. We are beginning to talk organization to the other girls and everybody agrees that it is time that something be done.

R—, Kensington, Pa.

NEGRO WIDOW CHEATED

I want to tell you women about my experience in trying to earn a living. I came here from North Carolina about a year ago. My husband had died and there seemed no way my child and I could keep on living. Friends advised me to come to New York where, they said, housework was plentiful. I left my boy with some people back home and came on alone. It wasn't as easy to find work here as it was supposed to be. You had to have references for a steady job. Sometimes the prospective Madame didn't like my face—"too black."

Finally, I got a job. It didn't pay much, but I had board and lodging and enough to pay for my son's keep. This was too good to last. Now, for the last five months I have worked by the day. No one knows what this is, who hasn't done it. Every housekeeper has a general cleaning once a week. Working by day means general house cleaning every day. The hardest and dirtiest work is left for the woman who comes in once a week, such as cleaning woodwork, polishing floors and washing windows. Professional window cleaners have safety belts. We have to sit out on a window ledge and take our chances. Only an exceptionally strong woman can work six such days in succession, providing she gets them. When times were good this used to pay four dollars a day, they say. Today we take anything we can get."

Lately, I haven't been able to keep myself and send



money for my boy, too, so I brought him here, figuring I'd have to manage somehow. I have a furnished room with another woman. We eat, sleep and live in the same room.

The first day my son was here I was called to work. I left him alone, glad of the chance to earn some money. The woman who had called me told me she would pay me two dollars for the day. It was better than nothing, so I started to work. I cleaned until four o'clock. Then I washed baby clothes until six. When I was through with that she asked me would I do a little more work for her. She said, "Never mind about the time. I'll pay you extra." I washed heavy bath towels and sheets until eight o'clock. By that time I was about ready to drop, besides I was worried about the child left all by himself. At last I had my hat and coat on, waiting to be paid. That woman had the nerve to offer me a dollar and a half for all my work. I protested, but I was tired and discouraged and I couldn't put up much of a fight. She added another quarter and that's all I could get out of her.

The next day I was so tired, I couldn't get up to look for work at all.

Now I ask you. My boy is eight years old. How can I live and bring him up under such conditions?
E. C., New York.

SOVIET WOMEN SHOCK BRIGADERS SEND THEIR GREETINGS OVER HERE

(By a Soviet Worker Correspondent)

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R.—We would be very glad to receive letters from you. We would read them during the dinner-time before our work-women brigades of turners and immediately answer them.

We have learned of the difficult conditions in your life through the articles printed in our newspapers.



The position of working women in your country sharply differs from the position of women in our country.

In the capitalist countries, the working women get less than the men for the very same work. The colored workers receive even less than the white workers.

In the U.S.S.R. there is no difference between the different nationalities. Independently from the nationality the working women have the same rights as the men. Side by side with our brothers, husbands, and sons we struggle on the economic front.

The doors of all the high schools are open wide to our working women. After the October Revolution, it was made possible for us to become specialists.

We are working here with enthusiasm, because we know for what purpose we are doing it. We understand what our shock work means for our country and Socialism. It is true, we encounter many difficulties in our struggle, but these difficulties are eliminated through the increasing productivity of labor, through the raising of the quality of production.

We beg you to write us collective as well as industrial letters. We are very interested in the position of working women in your country. Write us about the life of Negro women in your country and about their rights. Comradely yours,

The Shock Brigade of Working Women.
(Nine signatures)

Editorial Note

Our readers are called upon to reply to the above letter which comes from the free women of the Soviet Union. Write to them, ask them questions. Tell them of your life.

All letters will be printed in the "Working Woman" and copies will be sent to the Soviet Union.

CHILDBIRTH—A WOMAN'S PROBLEM

By Margaret H. Irish—who has done research work on this problem

In the United States it is officially recorded that between 15,000 and 20,000 mothers die in childbirth every year. Also, only a small number of the deaths from abortions are recorded. Deaths resulting from illegal abortions are often set down as being from some other cause entirely. But even with the difficulty of finding exact figures, it is well-known that this country has the highest maternal death-rate of any civilized nation where statistics are kept. The death-rate is, of course, very high among working women, especially in some sections of the South among Negro women. And of the enormous number of abortions done in the United States every year, the total being estimated at more than a million, the largest proportion of operations are among working women. It is worth reminding ourselves that women have abortions done, or do abortions on themselves, because they want to avoid having any more children. Most abortions have to be secret because of the strict laws against such operations, so they are usually done in bad, unclean conditions, often by untrained midwives, quack doctors, or other people who know nothing about sanitary methods.

A good many of the maternal deaths could be prevented by the use of birth control methods. Many mothers who die in childbirth should never have been allowed to conceive a child, because of their diseased or weak condition, or because of physical deformities. Certainly most of the abortions and deaths from abortions could be prevented if women who now use abortion could be taught and persuaded to use birth control methods. Contraceptives are not at all like abortion, and the good ones are not harmful. It seems such a simple matter to say to working women: "Get and use proper birth control advice." But it is not so simple as all that. The working and farm women do not, except in a few large cities, get the contraceptive advice that they need and want. Why is this?

It is true that in a few places like New York there are a few free, reliable birth control clinics, but in most parts of the country there are no clinics. Margaret Sanger and her fellow-workers have been fighting to have more clinics everywhere throughout the country, but the laws of most of the states, and the Federal laws stand in the way. In Connecticut, for instance, it is a serious crime even to possess a birth control device. Two years ago an attempt was made by the Birth Control League to change the Connecticut law so that doctors could give out contraceptive information to save the lives of hundreds of mothers. This would have made it possible to set up clinics under the supervision of doctors. But the bill to change the law was defeated. Women in Connecticut must go on "bootlegging" their birth control advice and materials. This is true of almost all the states, even where the law is a little less severe.

The Catholics who bitterly oppose birth control, fear it partly because its spread will cause them to lose in numbers and in influence. In this connection it is interesting to note that most of the Protestant churches have gone on record in favor of birth control.

Because of the old-fashioned laws on birth control many doctors are afraid to give out birth control information. Thus the working woman usually cannot get help from a doctor. It becomes to a great extent a privilege of the rich. Without clinics and without help from a doctor, women frequently ask for information at drug-stores. Often the drug-store recommends bad or questionable methods, which are not safe. If the drug-store recommends a good method the woman will find that it is very expensive. So the poor farm and working woman finds herself in a blind alley. The high price of contraceptive supplies is a way for the drug-stores to make large profits. The wholesale houses charge high prices, because they know that they can get away with it. Birth control products are in great demand, in spite of all the laws, and the places that make them can and do charge very high prices. So, in American style, this trade often becomes a racket which exploits women. And while some excellent birth control materials are advertised, there is also a widespread abuse of advertising to display inferior, unscientific, and often harmful contraceptives. In Soviet Russia this situation has been taken care of, for there all experiment in birth control methods, all advice and prescription, all distributing and selling of materials is done by the government.

Another point to be remembered is that often when working women get birth control materials they find that it is hard to use them because of crowded home conditions, lack of privacy, lack of sanitary facilities, and so forth. This is directly due to the low standard of living which exists among a large part of our population. People who are underfed and under-clothed, certainly should have a right to space their children. But it is precisely the ones that need the information most—textile workers, wives of miners and steel workers—who find that their poor living prevents them from getting birth control information, and are unable to use it when they do get it.

Working and farm women must understand that birth control does not mean that any woman must stop having children. It simply permits her to have children when and how she wishes. What can women do to be sure of having the birth control information that they need? They can demand it. They must make public officials understand that women want good free clinics with scientific contraceptive information. Women must fight the attitude of the states and of the Federal Government on birth control. They must force a change in the laws.

KIDS HAVE NO SHOES

This photo shows workers children's feet wrapped in rags. Shoes are full of holes, because parents have no work, and meager charity relief won't provide any.





Central Executive Committee of United Councils of Working Class Women of New York

ORGANIZE — FIGHT!

THE ROLE OF THE WOMEN'S COUNCILS IN UNEMPLOYED WORK

By CLARA LIGHT

In former times the Women's Councils lent a helping hand to every organization that needed it; Trade Unions, kitchen work in strikes; whatever they could do.

Unemployed work was never done on our own initiative, but only through the help of the Unemployed Councils. The composition of the Councils changed into one of a more working class element with the deepening of the crisis. We were faced with the problem of leading our own members in their struggles for relief, and so we became not only an auxiliary organization but a guiding force in the struggles of the workers.

We fight for relief for our own members at the Home Relief Buros, canvassing houses for needy cases, and organizing these houses on the basis of demanding relief for the needy families. We take part in rent strikes and organize the women to fight side by side with their men for Unemployment Insurance. Under our own initiative we are conducting the fight for free food and clothing in the schools, for children of the unemployed.

In the Brownsville section, the Councils organized, through their own initiative, a demonstration at the Home Relief Buro to demand food and rent for twelve families. The result was that six families were helped immediately, and the rest were promised that they would be investigated within three days. In the Rent Strike at 226 Barrett Street, Councils Nos. 7 and 16 took an active part. They were on the picket line daily and helped to carry back the furniture of the evicted workers in defiance of police terror. Council No. 27 while canvassing for members on Williams Avenue, came across a starving family. They immediately organized a committee of the same house and went to the Home Relief Buro. This family got relief the same day.

These cases are not isolated, but are taking place throughout our section. The Women's Councils have proved themselves a powerful force in leading the workers in their struggles for relief. Anyone who wants further information should apply to 80 East 11th St., Room 505, New York City.

In the course of our unemployed work we spread the WORKING WOMAN, and all other literature.

BEYOND THE POLAR CIRCLE

(Continued from page 8)

"This great country is now owned by the workers, men like yourselves, and women like these women here. All over Russia men and women are working together, building schools and houses where sick people are cared for, making clothing and shoes so that all may benefit. Let the women come tonight, and I will tell you more of our plans."

"This is all new and strange to us," began Yaptik, sullenly, but other voices broke in.

"Does this mean that we will not be cheated by the rich men who used to come here and buy our

finest furs for a few roubles?"

"We are glad to give you every thing you need in exchange for your furs. There are to be no more rich men who will profit by your work," was the answer.

"We must do what the stranger says," said an old man in a voice of authority.

"Are you all agreed?" asked the Russian, looking from one to the other.

"Yes," nodded the men, "the women shall go with us. Let us hear more about the Soviet Union."

THE END.

MAY 1st REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS

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HOUSEHOLD

By MARTHA

DO YOU KNOW A BETTER WAY?

Our readers are requested to write in suggestions on how to lighten housework. Please send in simple recipes. We will print the best ideas.

● Delicious Macaroni Salad

Take one package of elbow macaroni, cook in salt water until done, drain, blanch in cold water and drain again. To this add: One small can tuna fish, one hard-boiled egg (chopped fine), one very small onion (chopped fine), six sweet pickles (chopped fine), twelve stuffed olives (chopped fine). Mix all together, moisten well with any good salad dressing, serve on lettuce.

● Very Good Fish Pudding

(1 1/2 lbs. cod makes six large portions.)

Boil and shred fish; mix with it three or four slices white bread, pulled into small pieces. Don't use the crusts. Season with salt and paprika. Chop up green pepper, add two tablespoons catsup, two tablespoons Worcestershire sauce. Make 2 cups of cream sauce and mix all together. Bake, with crumbs and butter on top.

● To Wash Hairbrushes and Combs

Fill a basin with cold water and add a little ammonia or baking soda. Tip the basin enough to allow the brush to be swished up and down in the water without wetting the back. Rinse in clear water, shake vigorously, and place on its side or face on the sill of an open window to dry. Combs may be left in the solution for half an hour.

● For Rough Hands

When the hands begin to feel rough, rub plenty of olive oil well in just before retiring and slip on a pair of old loose gloves. This will improve the roughest of hands.

● To Remove Gum

Remove chewing gum from dress material with turpentine or kerosene. If trying to remove it from polish or waxed furniture, however, as much as possible should be removed with the blunt edge of a knife since turpentine or kerosene will remove the finish from furniture.

● To Put Up Screens

Here is a suggestion for cleaning window screens. Before putting screens in the windows, wipe both the frames and screening with a cloth that has been dipped in kerosene. This cleans them well and prevents the screening from rusting.

● The Kitchen Sink

Pour down the sink drain a strong solution of sal soda once a week in order to keep kitchen sink in good condition. This is the safest and best cleaning method. The proportion of one cup of sal soda to five quarts of hot water is generally satisfactory.

I'M TELLING YOU

Plant Dollar Seeds

Now, when seeds are being planted, there's no more fascinating game than planting dollars and watching them grow in an institution known as a safe place for savings.

THE FRANKLIN SOCIETY
for Home-Building and Savings
(Daily News, April 12)

It certainly must be fun to watch dollars grow— if you have any dollars to watch. Most of the dollars we know about vanish before you have time to get a good look at them. They never stay long enough to be watched.

WE WANT LETTERS

We want letters from all our readers. Here are a few suggestions about what to write.

What kind of work are you doing?

What are the conditions of the speed-up, wage-cuts, and difficulties of your job?

What is your home life like?

What steps, if any, are being taken in your neighborhood to fight these conditions?

These few hints are not intended to cover ALL the points which you can write about. Write as you wish. We have set aside three pages and more, if you send us letters for more. Do not worry about "not being a writer." Women workers in far flung corners of the country, in mills, factories, mines, offices and at home are the ones who read these letters.

Readers—We want you to get together and give voice to the problems confronting you and fill THE WORKING WOMAN with a constant interchange and flow of letters.

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For every ten subscriptions a prize of "MEMORIES OF LENIN" by his widow, Comrade Krupskaya, will be given. For every twenty-five subscriptions a choice of two prizes will be given: (1) "TO MAKE MY BREAD," by Grace Lumpkin, or (2) A BATH SET. • The book is a wonderful story of the life of the textile workers in the south. No worker wants to miss reading this great book. If you bought it, it would cost \$2. • The bath set contains a bath mat, 2 bath towels and 2 wash cloths in colors. It is of very good quality and comes in pink and white, blue and white or green and white.

THE JUNE ISSUE WILL TELL ABOUT

WAR!

AND WHAT IT MEANS TO WOMEN

CONTENTS: Roosevelt's War Program. • The Soviet Union Stands for Peace.

"I Saw It Myself"—Excerpts from Henri Barbusse's famous novel.

And many interesting letters from war widows
and Gold Star mothers.

REVOLUTIONARY MAY DAY GREETINGS TO THE WORKERS OF THE SOVIET UNION

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of Stamford, Conn.

Fitchburg Women's Club and Secretariat
Fitchburg, Mass.

Women's Council, Elmwood, Ill.

Women's Council, Albany Park
Chicago, Ill.

Women's Council No. 3
Chicago, Ill.

Nairjoasta, Waukegan, Ill.

Scandinavian Working Women's Council
of Cleveland, Ohio

Lithuanian Working Women's Alliance
Branch No. 66, Los Angeles, Calif.

Women's Section of the Ukrainian Toilers
Organization, Cleveland, Ohio

Lithuanian Working Women's Alliance
Branch No. 17, Detroit, Mich.

Lithuanian Working Women's Alliance
Branch No. 130

Ukrainian Working Women Red Star of
Dearborn, Mich.

Armenian Working Women
Detroit, Mich