

April 30-34

THE WORKING WOMAN

5¢

LYNCH TERROR

A Story

By MYRA PAGE

HOW WE LIVE

By a

SOVIET WOMAN WORKER

A WOMAN

of the

NEW ORDER

by

VERN SMITH

LETTERS FROM WORKERS



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENT URGES FIGHT AGAINST WAR
 Students in High Schools and Colleges All Over the Country Carried Through a
 One-Hour Strike, on April 13th, Against U. S. War Preparations

Demonstrate May 1st, Against Hunger, War!



THE STORY OF MAY DAY

Workers in the United States for the past 130 years have been urging and fighting for shorter working hours, better conditions and the right to organize. The working day used to be from "sunrise to sunset." So it was a great victory for the working class when, after years of struggle, the ten-hour a day law was passed in 1837.

Then followed a period of more concentrated effort for unity among the workers and a developed realization of the importance of organization.

Between 1885-1895 a period of depression set in and unemployment and suffering, for the masses, was general. Great strikes were organized for the first time on a nationwide scale, and although the workers were defeated in a number of strikes by the combined forces of the State and capital, the American workers came out of these struggles with greater militancy and a clearer understanding of their class position in society. Five hundred thousand men and women workers were involved in strikes in which they demanded the enforcement of the eight-hour day in all shops and factories. In 1885, May 1, became a worker's day in the United States; a day for unification; a day set beforehand for a general "walk-out."

The strike center was Chicago, where the strike movement was most widespread; but many other cities were involved in the struggle on May First. New York, Baltimore, Washington, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Detroit, and many other cities made a good showing in the walkout.

It is estimated that about half of the number of workers who struck

on May First were successful, and where they did not secure the 8 hour day, they succeeded in appreciably reducing the hours of labor."

The May First strike was most aggressive in Chicago where the workers laid down tools at the call of the organized labor movement. But the victorious march of the Chicago workers was arrested by the superior forces of the employers and the capitalists who plotted to destroy the militant leaders and the labor movement of Chicago.

On May 3, 40,000 men, women and children strikers held a mass meeting and were brutally attacked by the police who killed six workers and wounded many others. The next day another giant meeting was held and was about to be adjourned when a bomb was thrown into the crowd, killing a police sergeant. A battle ensued with the result that seven policemen and four workers were dead. The blood bath at Haymarket Square, the railroading to the gallows of Parsons, Spies, Fischer and Engel was the first real revolutionary May Day and these men who were sacrificed are honored by the workers in all countries, annually on May First.

Lucy Parsons, wife of Alfred Parsons, was outstanding among the militant women fighters in the Haymarket murders. She worked night and day for the release of the prisoners. She wrote leaflets and helped organize demonstrations. Now she is vice-chairman of the Mooney Conference in Chicago. She has never sought personal gain. She has lived and fought for the solidarity of the working class.

The heroism and determination of

the American workers to improve their conditions so aroused workers in other countries that in Europe—in France, England, Germany, Russia—on May Day 1890, many workers entered into a general strike for the 8 hour day. Engels, in his preface to the fourth German edition of the Communist Manifesto (May 1, 1890) called attention to the importance of the first International May Day:

"As I write these lines, the proletariat of Europe and America is holding a review; it is mobilized for the first time as One army under One flag, and fighting One immediate aim: an 8 hour working day . . . The spectacle we are now witnessing will make the capitalists and landowners of all lands realize that today the proletarians of all lands are, in very truth, UNITED."

Negro and white working class women: Carry on the revolutionary fight in your shops, in your union, in your organization for the traditions of May Day. For the united front struggle of the whole working class this May Day. Pour out into the streets in mighty display of proletarian solidarity!

Against Roosevelt's program of Hunger and War!

For Equal Pay for Equal Work for Negro and White Women!

Against Fascism and Imperialist War—For the Defense of the Soviet Union!

For the Freedom of The Scottsboro boys, Edith Berkman, Ernst Thaelman and all class war prisoners!

For the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of a Soviet America!

WHAT DOES WAR

MEAN TO YOU?

By SASHA SMALL

Do you remember 1917 when a wave of hysteria rolled over the United States, trying to sweep everybody along on its crest with the slogan "we must fight to make the world safe for democracy and fight this war to end all wars"?

Do you remember the posters with boys in uniform pointing accusingly at every passer-by and inquiring whether you were doing your bit?

And how about the parades and the flag waving and all the sob stuff about our boys and our heroes?

Those who risked their lives to tell these boys and their families what they were really being sent to die for, who tried to show them that this war was being fought for the profits of the munition kings, the financial magnates and the big industrialists, were slugged and beaten and thrown into jail as traitors to their country.

Do you women whose sons and brothers and husbands went overseas remember the agony of waiting for a letter, the fear of opening for the evil news it might bring. You cannot have forgotten what it meant to learn that he was killed in action, that he was gassed and in a field hospital, that he was blinded or taken a prisoner.

Horrors of the World War

Working Women! You must remember how you were given jobs in munitions factories, even steel mills, to take the places of the men who were sent to the front.

You miners' wives remember what it meant to have your man sent to war and have to get along somehow and feed the kids and keep them in clothes.

You farm women remember the hours of back-breaking work in the fields hoeing and seeding and planting and doing the chores and the house work too.

And you teachers, remember how you had to poison the young minds in your charge with stories about how the horrible Huns were man eaters and what not, instead of teaching the kids that the German starvation and war program.

soldiers were fathers and older brothers just like their own who worked hard for a living and then were given a gun and told to go shoot down



STUDENTS of Hunter College, New York, answer strike call of Student League Against Fascism and War

Americans for the glory of the German empire.

What we have today, in the fifth year of the crisis, as a result of post war booms, hypocritical "peace" treaties all over the world is too much with us to be able to forget for a moment.

You who feel directly the results of hunger and unemployment, misery and torn clothes do not need any explanation of what these things mean.

Another War Is Coming

And now another war looms in the immediate future. A war with which the capitalists of all countries hope to solve the crisis.

All this talk about preparedness and armaments for peace can't fool clear thinking people. Six inch guns instead of nine inch guns are not needed to preserve peace. Peace that is preserved at the point of a gun means only one thing and that one thing is another world slaughter, which with the new deadly chemical warfare that has been discovered in recent years will be far more devastating than the last one.

But if all the women in this country get together and decide that they will stop at nothing to prevent another imperialist war such a protest can be mighty effective. And if all the women in the world get together it will be even more effective.

Think how much N.R.A. propaganda has been directed at the women of the United States. General Johnson has repeatedly stated that if the women get behind the N.R.A. he will be able to put it over. All sorts of appeals are directed towards the women of the world because the boss class, from the government to the church to the labor fakers know that without the support of the women they cannot put across their

The International Women's Congress that will be held in Paris July

28, 29, and 30 of this year must be a tremendous challenge to the capitalist war makers of the world.

They must be made to feel that working women, farm women, teachers, housewives, intellectuals women from every section of the population are opposed to another world slaughter and are ready to act to prevent it.

The American section of the International Women's Congress Against War and Fascism is trying to reach every group of women in this country. It wants to get its call into every factory mine, mill and home in the country.

You can do your part. Send for the Congress call and take it up at your Union meeting, with a group of workers from your shop, or any organization you belong to. Get this organization to endorse the call. Convince your organization that it must send delegates to all preparatory conferences and to the regional conferences Against War and Fascism that will be held throughout the United States on July 7 to July 15, where the delegates to Paris will be elected.

At least twelve women delegates must go from this country. Women from munitions plants, chemical plants, textile mills, farms, miners' wives steel workers' wives, teachers, professionals—all these must be represented at the world Congress in Paris so that they can participate in the work of the Congress and come back prepared to lead the struggle of the masses of American women against war and against fascism.

Write to the American League Against War and Fascism, 112 East 19th Street, New York City, for more information. Send in all suggestions you have, names of individuals, organizations, etc., that can be reached for this vital work.

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THE WORKING WOMAN

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WOMAN OF THE NEW ORDER

By VERN SMITH

Michaelovna occupied the dual position of secretary of the nucleus and executive inspector of the farm, in which capacity she reports regularly to the knitgoods factory workers on the situation in their truck farm. She is a woman of 39 years, who looks 29.

She told us her story in the Party office, which is right alongside the office of the farm. She came to work in the factory that is now called "Red Banner" in 1911. She sewed by hand; the plant was then not yet mechanized. In 1917 after the Revolution, she started study courses having until then been illiterate. She took instruction in nursing, and in 1918 was sent to the Siberian front. Although a nurse, she at times took part also in the battles against Kolchak. In 1919 she joined the Communist Party. She was demobilized from the army in 1920, and worked then as a nurse for a time in Perm. This was a period of epidemic brought on by the destruction wrought by blockade, war and civil war, and intervention.

In 1922 Michaelovna came back to Leningrad where she was made secretary of a Party nucleus in one department of the Red Banner factory. When the arrangement was made for this state farm to supply this particular factory, she was sent to the farm.

On Michaelovna's return to the factory she helped with the rest of

the workers, and in line with the whole trend of Soviet production, to institute tremendous changes. In the Czarist factory, the maximum pay was 40 kopeks a day. There was no dining room, any more than there is in many of the American factories. Workers brought their lunches and ate them wherever they could, usually standing. There was no sanitary provision and the place was badly ventilated. Workers lived herded in barracks, girls, men and families with children all jumbled in together. Families were charged six rubles a month rent out of the daily pay of less than half a ruble per person.

Now the Red Banner workers, and those on this state farm likewise, pay about 5 per cent of their income for rent in what are by comparison with the old days, palatial surroundings. A considerable number of families on the state farm have apartments with the usual common laundry and the rounded out system of nurseries, classes, etc. Here, too, these are the model of new construction. There is not enough such housing for all yet, but a prodigious building campaign is under way to secure it. Michaelovna and thousands of others like her in every industry are playing a great part in bringing about this new condition.

Michaelovna herself confesses that she has a "great desire" for higher education. She takes evening courses in the university on political economy, Russian language and literature, mathematics and historical materialism.

It will be seen that Michaelovna occupies a position which one might describe as that of a corporal in the army of socialist construction. Not a great political leader, but an extremely busy, efficient, able leader, one of many who are coming forward from the great mass of the proletariat, who are the very basis of the new society.

Does it mean that she is a hard faced old maid, like so many of the "business women" and professional women that capitalism produces?



Never Too Old to Learn—Young Girl Teaching Old Woman to Write

No more than was Kastigova. Michaelovna in addition to her eventful life has also five children!

"How do you do it all?" we asked her.

She explained. The Soviet system does not make household drudges. She reared her children largely after the revolution; they went from factory nursery to kindergarten and then to school; now two are graduates from what corresponds in America to a technical high school, and she still had time for all that study and all that work. She sits opposite us, perfectly erect, a smile on her strong brown face, looking ten years younger than she really is, a real woman of the new order.



LYNCH TERROR

By MYRA PAGE



A Chapter from "Gathering Storm," a book on Southern life in the Black Belt. Published by the International Publishers, New York.

The dance at the Country Club was at its height when Jim crept along the shrubbery, across the dim lawn and into a clump of bridal wreath bushes which stood against the building between an open window and the wide veranda with its high, colonial pillars. Completely surrounded by their white blossoms, he crouched on all fours and struggled to quiet his hurried breathing. His brain was on fire, yet cold and hard as the steel plow which he drove up the furrow.

Through the open windows and into the sultry night drifted the tones of a wailing saxophone, "You Made Me What I Am Today, I Hope You're Satisfied."

Jim reached in his overall pocket, then drew his rifle across his knees. His aim at the foxes who came foraging among the farmer's chickens had never failed him. Surely it wouldn't fail him tonight.

Cautiously he drew back the bushes and looked through the window into the ballroom. A branch across his chest and covering his face, with only his eyes glittering through, Jim peered about for his man. Gawd, what if he weren't here!

The violins and saxophone died away, the dance ended. Drawing back in the bushes as a couple came near the window; he heard a male drawling, "Shay, I heard another good nigger joke today..."

Nigger joke! Nigger joke! Martha's broken body... Nigger joke! "Oh El Haines," a soft voice giggled, "you're such a kidder."

Jim sprung from his hiding place. In the full light which streamed from the dance hall stood a girl and alongside, his man. Bringing his rifle level with his shoulder and taking deliberate aim, Jim pulled the trigger. "You rape-er 'n murderer!"

At the first shot, young Haines slumped to his knees. The last two were fired into his prostrate body. Panic and confusion broke loose among the revellers.

Slipping back into the bushes Jim made his way rapidly from the club and back to the country road.

Nigger joke — Why hadn't he

kicked him in the face, choked his white throat? . . . *Nigger joke* . . .

The pounding at his temples blurred his vision. His mind dulled, clung tenaciously to one thought. He must warn Back Row, then make for the woods.

"Jim, you got him?" whispered Uncle Ben.

He nodded, gasping for breath. The women pressed the blanket into his hands. "Here, provisions. Be off." His eyes cast wildly around the cabin. "Whar's — whar's?" Pa Morgan shoved him through the doorway, "Safely buried... Run, man, soon they'll have the bloodhounds. Make for the haystacks till nightfall. We'll blur the trail."

As his footsteps grew fainter, disappeared, the children and their elders smeared salt pork over the door-stoop and up the path in the direction he had gone.

"Now, Ellie, we'll make off." But it was too late. The sound of motor cars and barking dogs drew rapidly closer.

"Charlie, Myrtle—you all we got. If you love your Mammy, hide thar till I tells you to come out."

Uncle Ben placed his shotgun on the kitchen table. As the mob surged around the shack, Ma Morgan stepped out upon her door stoop. "What you—all want?" she demanded. Her face was yellow, drawn, but her figure stood erect, defiant. "Meb-be you come to see what that Haines bastard did to my gal?" Pa Morgan stepped close beside her.

The crowd snarled, surged forward. Only a few wore masks. All of the business section of Greenville had been mobilized, as well as the mill and county sheriffs.

"We come fer that nigger. Whar is he?" Two men in dress suits jumped on the doorstep. "He ain't here, 'n he ain't been here," she told them.

"That's a lie. You god dam nigger, we'll make you talk!"

Pa Morgan raised his shot gun, but it was smashed from his hands, and twelve men bore him to the ground, kicking at his ribs, head, and sexual organs. As his wife bit desperately at the wrists of his

assailants, a white man with a curse brought the butt end of his gun down against her skull. Screaming, Myrtle and Charlie rushed from the cabin. Grabbing his father's banjo, the boy swung it to right and left. It jangled faintly as its battered sides were grabbed and tossed aside.

Whipping out his revolver, one sleek-haired youth fired rapidly into the four prostrate bodies. A half-dozen grabbed at his arm. "Wait you fool. They shouldn't die so easy." Uncle Ben bound but not gagged was tied to the rear of a Packard. As the car tore over the road his body dragged, then jolted in the air. Curses and drunken yells broke upon the sleeping countryside.

"Hell, the woman's done fer, 'n the brats too . . . Now fer the nigger." Those remaining behind ransacked the other cabins and swore at the dogs which found it hard to pick up the scent. A shack was fired, but the sheriffs soon smothered the blaze. "You blasted idjits. Doan you know this here is mill property?"

The motor party, finally tiring of their game, bore Uncle Ben's dying body to the woods—the very woods in which seven hours earlier he had stumbled on Martha's body. Should they hang him or burn him, they argued among themselves. Finally a rope was tossed over a limb and around his neck. "Now pray, you god dam nigger. Pray." Propped against the trunk, his eyes closed, Uncle Ben pressed his lips together. "Then dance, you black-faced devil." They drew their guns. When he did not move they fired at his legs, breaking his shins. With a moan, he tipped forward. "Here, quick, or we'll be too late." The body was tossed aloft, and Uncle Ben Morgan—banjo picker, mill hand, and story teller—kicked feebly, then hung limp while bullets rained into his face and sides.

Jim robbed the mob of their prey. When the dogs had once more picked up his trail, and he found fifty armed, frenzied men closing in on him, and his gun emptied of all but one shot, he turned the last on himself. "You'll never hang this nigger," he yelled, "My turn at a nigger joke."

SOVIET BABIES



The Communist Party Convention

Five hundred regular and fraternal delegates from forty-two states gathered in Cleveland, April 2-9, for the Eighth National Convention of the Communist Party of the U. S. A. This great gathering's plan of struggle against capitalism adopted by the miners, steel, auto, textile, railroad and other workers and farmers, is of outstanding significance to the entire American working class, for it represents the interest of all the oppressed and exploited masses.

The keynote of the deliberations and decisions of the Convention was given in the masterful report of the general secretary of the Communist Party, Comrade Earl Browder.

"The world stands on the brink of revolutions and wars . . . Even the United States, still the strongest fortress of world capitalism, has been stripped of its last shred of 'exceptionalism', stands fully exposed to the fury of the storms of crisis, and, relatively speaking, is registering its deepest effects. The economic losses due to the crisis, in the United States alone begin to approach the figure of total losses of the World War.

"A great upsurge of class struggles is sweeping the capitalist world. In the United States the upsurge of mass resistance to the capitalist policy of driving the masses into starvation, a policy intensified behind the demagogic cloak of Roosevelt's 'New Deal', has already been answered by the capitalists with machine guns . . . Fascism is rearing its ugly head more and more boldly every day in the U. S. A."

By ANNA DAMON

The report of the Central Committee reviewed in simple words the struggles led by the Communist Party since the Seventh Convention in the interest of the toiling masses. It showed the Communist Party as the only political party which sounded the alarm against the treachery of the N.R.A.—at its very inception—and led the workers in strikes and struggles against the miseries of the N.R.A., fighting for higher wages and shorter hours, against killing speed-up.

The activities of the Scottsboro case signaled the Party as the champion of the oppressed Negro masses leading the struggle for Negro liberation and the right for self-determination in the Black Belt. It showed the Party as the leader and organizer of demonstrations and hunger marches.

As a result of these activities the Party grew from 7,500 members in 1930 to 24,536 in 1934. Thunderous applause greeted the report amid great enthusiasm delegates remained standing, cheering and singing revolutionary songs.

The co-report of Comrade Stachel dealt mainly with economic struggles—the united front activities based around the immediate demands of the workers. It showed the great headway made in leading the strikes of the workers against the N.R.A., the growth of the industrial unions of the T.U.U.L. and our opposition work in the American Federation of Labor.

Other reports of various fields of work were given by Comrades Hathaway, Haywood, Puro and Brown. While all the reports showed definite headway made by the Party there was no self satisfaction with the progress made. On the contrary, there was a most self-critical examination of the mistakes and shortcomings in the work and a determination for overcoming them. Great stress was laid on increasing the tempo of the Party's mass work among the youth, the women, paying particular attention to work in the shops, mines and mills in basic industries.

Problems confronting the Party's work among women, the need of fighting for their daily needs, was sounded in the main report of comrade Browder.

"Special attention is also necessary to the tasks of winning and organizing women industrial workers and housewives in the revolutionary movement. The capitalist class has drawn women into industry on a much larger scale than we have drawn into revolutionary activities and organizations. We will continue to lag behind the capitalists in this respect only at the price of continued weakness in the revolutionary movement. This question becomes all the more pressing because we are faced with a perspective of imperialist war in the near future. Under war conditions, everybody knows vast additional masses of women will be drawn into industry and especially into munitions manufacturing. Furthermore, large scale mobiliza-



WM. Z. FOSTER
Chairman of the Communist Party of U.S.A.

ELLA REEVE BLOOR
71-Year-Old Veteran Leader of Workers and Farmers

EARL BROWDER
General Secretary of the Communist Party of U.S.A.

tion of women workers into the armies will create gaps in our ranks which can only be filled by the bold promotion of women workers. That means we should long ago have been seriously and systematically preparing the women forces and boldly promoting them to leading responsible posts. The mobilization of masses of women workers requires special attention to their particular needs, formulation of special demands, the creation of special opportunities to consider their problems in connection with the problems of the whole working class, through conferences, etc. Especially, it requires more systematic recruitment of women into the trade unions and above all, into the Communist Party."

Speakers from the field, textile, packing house, mine, auto workers, and farmers all spoke of the problems confronting women in the shops and the need for greater attention towards this phase of work. Mother Bloor, ever young 71 year old veteran, in speaking at the Convention, brought out the need of mobilizing women against war. She said: "A Communist is a Communist wherever he or she is. We don't only show the face of the Party here. We show it at all times by our leadership, by our activities, by exposing the enemies of the working class; and so when we go out of here, we must go out together mobilizing our forces, not only for improved conditions, but we must go out together against war. The women are going to lead you against war. We must take up consciously and definitely

how we are going to mobilize the women against fascism and war. The women will lead in this struggle, but the men too must be made responsible to organize broad masses of women to send delegates to the Women's International Congress Against War which will be held in Paris July 28, 29 and 30th. We must see that there will be delegates from farm women, delegates from mine women of America, even from religious organizations—a real united front against war."

Anna Schultz, leader of the Communist Party, wife of John Scheer, murdered by the Nazis, in greeting the Convention in the name of the German Communist Party, brought to the attention the problems of work among women. She stated: "In Germany, already today, women have replaced the murdered and arrested masses of workers. The most important link in one chain of work our Party among working women must be the organization of delegate meeting of working women from the shops on the basis of the united front from below. The meetings of women delegates from the shops are the most important lever for the mobilization and organization of the women workers. It is this lever which will enable us to mobilize white and Negro women for the mass struggles against imperialist war, against fascism, and for the solution of the immediate problems of the workers."

Ann Burlak, spirited young textile worker, National Secretary of the Textile Workers Union, related the recent strikes against the N.R.A. in the textile industry and pointed to

the militant part that women play in these strikes, the need of promoting these women into leading positions in the unions as well as in the Party. Speaking of the treachery played by the United Textile Workers leaders in the great Salem, Mass., textile strike, where they tried to break the unity of the workers, she said: "Some of the workers developed into the most militant fighters; especially was this true of the women. In fact, at one meeting where Mr. Thomas McMahon of the U.T.W. tried to speak to these strikers, the women jumped up and said: 'Mr. McMahon, you talk about god, but you don't care whether our children starve', and pulled him off the platform and tore his clothes.

Eula Gray, whose uncle has been murdered by the Southern landlords in the Massacre against the sharecroppers at Camp Hill, Ala., told of the militant work done by the young workers of the Sharecroppers Union. She related the work of the girls:

"We, the youth, through leaflet squads, organized groups to distribute leaflets, suggested one way to begin: all went out together and put leaflets everywhere. The landlords could not understand how the leaflets were in such peculiar places; one of the youth girls was asked by the landlord whether she was out distributing them leaflets. She told him, what the hell difference did it make. One of them asked the girl—when he found leaflets in his kitchen—he had bad dogs and did not see how the leaflets were put there. I told him bad dogs do not hinder the Communist Party at all."

(Continued on page 15)





BEST CARED FOR CHILDREN IN THE WORLD
Soviet Children at Play in the Garden of the Nursery
While Mothers Work

WE, Working Women's Rolling Department (Steel Mill) of the Moscow Hammer and Sickle Mills wish to share with you our accomplishments—which we have achieved up to the fifteenth anniversary of the October Revolution. (There were no women working in this specific department when the former owner had it.) The department was not mechanized and the work was simply killing.

Before the October Revolution there were no technical improvements, neither in our department nor in the mill as a whole and only when we, the workers, became the bosses of the huge plant did we begin to think of matters to make our work easier. There were many changes made during the period of proletarian dictatorship. Workers were and are making suggestions for improvements of the processes which are very valuable to our plant.

Soviets Lighten Work in Industries

Before the October Revolution, in our Rolling Department, the workers were able to put through the rollers by hand methods, pig iron weighing 28 puds (one pud equals 40 pounds).

NEW HOMES FOR WORKERS Better Homes Are Continually Built in the Soviet Union



HOW WE LIVE

By SOVIET WOMEN WORKERS

conquering technique. In the above mentioned faculty we have 140 women. They also attend various institutions of learning. The half illiterate are also getting educated. Women also attend Party school. In this school our women strengthen themselves politically in order to become class conscious builders of the U.S.S.R.

Wages Constantly Rising

The wages of women are growing steadily; while last year the average earning of a woman was 80 rubles, at the present time it rose to 100 rubles and more. The general conditions of life are improving. Our department feels the shortage of living quarters. This shortage is due to the tremendous growth of our plants where new departments are being completed, as moulding, inspection, etc. The number of workers employed has reached 14761 as on October 1, 1932, in comparison with 9,000 as in 1930.

Naturally, there could be no question of women's work in the mill. Now the picture has entirely changed. At present we have batteries of motors, cranes, denices, etc., pulling out of the furnaces even 40 pud pig iron masses. These machines are being operated by women. Beside, women are employed as weighers, markers, etc. There are fifteen hundred workers in our department of which about two hundred are women and this has been accomplished in only one year.

Women Paid Same Wages as Men

In 1931 there were only sixty women in our rolling department. While in the first years of the revolution women workers could be counted on the fingers, now there are hundreds of them and they are not illiterate, oppressed women. They are women active, class conscious, educated, who know what they were fighting for—women are entitled to everything as the men are—wages not less than for men.

If the women work on construction, they get the same amount as the men. There is in evidence great craving for knowledge. Comrade Lenin said that "illiterate men can't take part in politics."

Anxious to Be Educated

Now women workers understand this, and up to the 15th anniversary of the October Revolution have registered considerable gains on this front. There is not a single woman in our department who is not seeking education. We have established right here in our plant a kind of industrial, educational faculty which spreads knowledge among workers from half literate to engineers. This is one of the greatest accomplishments of the workers in this plant, women walking in step with men,

Building New Homes

Naturally under such circumstances we cannot satisfy the demand for living quarters (homes) altho we tackle this problem quite satisfactorily. True it is hard to find a room as it is hard to conceive the tremendous growth of the population. We have built a number of new houses such as a house of shock brigaders consisting of 132 rooms, six commercial homes, a number of additions to old houses, but all these are not enough and that is why we build and will build tens and hundreds of houses and that is why the workers feel and know it is for them.

A woman is more free today. She's given a chance to work, to learn, to participate in social activity on equal terms with men. We have kindergartens, nurseries, play yards, where a married woman brings her children for the day. We also have such children's institu-



RUSSIAN GIRLS PARTICIPATING
in Sport Pageant in Moscow—U.S.S.R.



MASTERING THE MACHINE

✽

Young Girl
Student
Becomes a
Skilled
Worker

✽

In the U.S.S.R.
Equal
Opportunity
Is Open to
Women

tions which take care of children during the entire five day week. In our department we work four days and rest on the fifth. Our women bring their children to the nursery for four days and take them home on the day of rest. There the child is fed and brought up in our Communist spirit. We look on our children as the future fighters of the working class and these children's institutions in our plant have grown recently to 25-30%.
Dear Comrades: We do not forget you. We do everything possible to help you. We arrange affairs for the International Labor Defense. We are all members of the I.L.D. and make voluntary contributions.

In our plant the best women workers were given premiums in the sense that they were advanced to better jobs and also to occupy responsible positions in Soviet and Party institutions. The most advanced women are joining the Party of Lenin and the Y.C.L. The women's Party committee is also doing work by helping women workers, listening to their needs, etc. Women do

not drag behind—we organize women shock brigades to help fulfill the Five Year Plan in our plant.

Want Letters from U.S.A.

At the 15th Anniversary of the October Revolution we have decided to go over the top with our plan and we did it.

Dear women workers abroad: I feel like writing to you and would like you to answer me so as to establish regular correspondence. I do not know to whom I write but I feel that those to whom I write are anxious to know how we live here in the U.S.S.R. Of course, I have not written about everything but this is not my last letter. In the next letter I'll write you some more.

In the name of the women workers of the rolling mill department of the Hammer and Sickle Plant,
(Signed) G. SURKOVA.

Editor's Note: We call on all our readers to reply to the women workers who wrote this letter. We will print it in the Working Woman and send it along to the Soviet Union.

OUR COUNCILS IN ACTION

Council No. 16, N. Y. C.

A rent strike in the midst of East Flatbush! Certainly this well-to-do neighborhood never witnessed anything like that before. But the trouble is that previously East Flatbush was occupied by better paid workers, but now it is inhabited by some of the same workers who have hardly been hit by the depression. When a rent raise from \$3.00 to \$6.00 for an apartment was demanded by the Dime Savings Bank, landlords of the house 274 East 93rd St., it was met with sharp resentment.

The tenants of the house resented the raise but were ignorant of how to combat it. Then our Council No. 16, came to the scene and succeeded in organizing the house regardless of the Red scare issue present there. An intelligent handling of the latter was the reason for our success.

Once organized the tenants declared a rent strike. The house was decorated with placards; constant picketing was carried on, and open air meetings were held. We answered eviction notices handed the strikers by the bank by securing an I.L.D. attorney who defended the case so brilliantly that the capitalist judge had to give in. The strike ended with a complete victory for us.

The grateful tenants celebrated the victory with a house-party in honor of the Council. \$7.50 was contributed here for the Working Woman magazine.

As a result of our work our comrades are now gladly admitted into doors previously closed to them. It paved the way for sellers of revolutionary literature, and the house now has, instead of one or two Freiheit readers, several constant, and many occasional readers of the Daily Worker. As high as 20 copies of the Working Woman is sold in the house each month. (Reported by M. Silverman.)

Comrade Molly Samuels of Council No. 44 Crown Heights has written of the work of the Brownsville Section in penetrating reformist groups for the purpose of gathering Negro women in our common fight against wage discrimination and against the increased cost of living. She writes: Especially is our work effective



MILITANT WOMAN on Strike Defies Police Terror

in the churches. At a Scottsboro meeting held in one of the largest churches in Crown Heights we pointed out to the 250 workers, mostly women, that we stand in the forefront of the struggle against discrimination, jim-crowism, wherever we find it. We succeeded in getting relief for many Negro families and the women are in our ranks now.

We gained the confidence of the Negro women in both the local council and in some of the other councils. We show the Negro women that we do not merely talk, we carry out our words into action. Our council is preparing for struggle around an unemployment agency in our territory that discriminates against Negro workers. We are also preparing a Scottsboro meeting on a large scale in one of the churches in Crown Heights.

The task of getting new members is a problem for many of our Councils. Clara Smotrich of Council No. 17 writes how members are brought into their Council. "All we have to know is the right approach and we will succeed. Our Council has gained 27 new members during the last membership drive, and how did we do it?"

First we elected a good and sincere membership director and a committee of four. We surveyed the territory and chose a few houses for concentration. The committee elected goes out canvassing several times during the week and on each Wednesday night, the committee goes again to those who have promised to come and brings them to the meeting. The new members are introduced and a leading comrade takes the floor and explains to the newcomers what our organization stands for and the duty of a member of such an organization. We go through with our business as quickly as possible and then proceed to the discussion. We have a roll call every week. Those who do not attend are visited to find out the reason why they stay away. Sometimes we serve cakes and tea.

Now we are conducting a campaign for the adoption of the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill, under the number H. R. 7598. The comrades are enthusiastic about this campaign. We go out canvassing for signatures every day. The committees bring very good results and enthusiastic reports, and eagerly wait for future developments.

By GRACE HUTCHINS

You're telling me!

Drawings by GROPPER

Did you ever see the rich man's magazine, *Fortune*? I waited an hour and a half at the Public Library for a chance to look at the number with a special story about war and the rich men who have grown so hugely rich by murdering workers in the trenches.

Everyone in New York seemed to want the same number I wanted.

So I went to the office of *Fortune* itself on the fiftieth floor of the Chrysler Building, that magnificent monument to the automobile king. The telephone operator let me look at the office copy of the paper.

Each copy of the magazine costs a whole buck and a year's sub costs ten bucks. It is beautifully illustrated in soft colors and each number has lots of advertisements of wines and big automobiles and trips to the Riviera.

"AMONG YOUR GUESTS."

"When the guests gather in your salon," the ad read, and went on to ask, will the guests hear a really good pipe-organ or only a second-rate one? Of course the advertisements express the real purpose of this rich man's paper—to sell more luxuries and make more money for the merchants.

Tucked away in between the ads I found the story of mass murder—how a half dozen German, British, American and French arms-makers killed ten million workers in the last imperialist war to make themselves and their rich friends a thousand times richer than before.

The Story of Arms

The story begins with a picture of a cannon.

On a village green in rural England stands a War Memorial: a cannon captured by the local regiment from the Germans. On one side of the cannon are engraved the names of the English soldiers—workers and farmers—who were killed in that advance.

On the other side is the manufacturer's name: the English Vickers, Ltd.

English arms-makers were selling guns and am-



munition to the Germans for the murder of English workers. German arms-makers were selling armor plate to the English for warships that killed German workers. German soldiers—workers—were killed by German guns manned by the armies of King Albert of Belgium and Czar Nicholas II of Imperial Russia.

It cost about twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to kill a soldier—a worker—during the world imperialist war.

"Every time a burst shell fragment finds its way into the brain, the heart, or the intestines of a man in the front line, a great part of the \$25,000, much of it profit, finds its way into the pocket of the armament maker."

That is the reason why the armament makers and other capitalists want war—because the war profits are so stupendous.

The duPont Girl

Here's how duPont spent some of that money he got out of making arms to kill workers in the last big war. When his daughter got through the expensive private school where he sent her, he told her to invite four of her friends to go 'round the world with her.

He gave the duPont girl and each of her friends a "letter of credit" for ten thousand dollars so they could get that much money from any bank along the way.

So the duPont girl and each of her friends bought the most expensive thing they could find that they wanted to buy—one a gold watch studded with jewels, one a diamond necklace and another a string of pearls.

Now the duPonts and their friends are telling us it's time for another imperialist war. They'd like to make some more millionaires. They'd like us to get into the munitions plants and make shells, so some more rich girls can buy diamonds and pearls in Paris.

But we're telling them now. We're telling them we're going to march on May Day against war and fascism. And it's going to be the biggest May Day we've ever had. Let's go!





SAVE THEIR LIVES

By RUBY BATES

The nine Scottsboro boys are innocent!!! Yet the Alabama lynchers backed by the Wall Street bankers, and the United States Government say they must die.

But the masses of workers indignant at the frame-up attempts to lynch these nine boys are organizing huge protest mass meetings all over the world. Their efforts have stayed the hands of the Alabama lynchers so far.

Angered by the growing unity of Negro-white workers, in the struggle for the freedom of the nine Scottsboro boys, which is one and the same struggle for the freedom of the Negro people of the United States, the rulers of the South are using fascist methods of attack in their attempts to murder the nine Scottsboro boys.

All of the boys are in solitary confinement except Charlie Weems, Roy, Andy Ozie Powell, and Eugene Williams are in "solitary" because a stool pigeon provoked a fight with Roy who defended himself and the three came to his rescue. Olen Montgomery was placed in solitary confinement because it is claimed that he took 50 cents from a cell-mate. This vicious and merciless persecution of the boys by the Warden, Dan Rogers, is but one of the attacks of the Southern rulers to break the militant spirit of the boys. By putting them into solitary confinement and brandishing guns before them and threatening to shoot them, if they do not repudiate the I. L. D. in favor of the N. A. A. C. P., they are attempting to strangle the mass defense created and led by the I. L. D.

This N. A. A. C. P. organization is only a tool of the capitalists. It cares nothing about the lives of nine

innocent boys. Its aim is to keep the Negroes of the North and the South under the rule of the white bosses. We must see to it that the N.A.A.C.P. does not interfere with the plan of the I.L.D. to take the case of our boys to the Supreme Court.

If we, fellow-workers, let the bosses murder our boys it will mean a great blow and a great disgrace for the working class. We must strengthen our forces. We must send more protest telegrams to the Governor of Alabama, to the warden of the Jefferson County jail and President Roosevelt. We must organize great mass meetings sponsored by such workers organizations as the I. L. D., who saved the German Communists Dimitroff, Poppoff and Taneff from the Hitler murderers. Only through mass strength can we free the nine innocent Scottsboro boys. Don't let these nine innocent Scottsboro boys die!



RUBY BATES

THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS



By MOTHER ADA WRIGHT

I go everywhere all over the country speaking at International Labor Defense meetings along with Comrade Leo Gallagher. I tell all the people about how the boys are being beaten; how my son Andy was put all by himself in a solitary cell next to white women prisoners so he can be framed some more.

Our poor boys are being treated awful. Those children have hardly anything to eat. The Warden keeps beating them all the time when they ask him for something they don't let them have a thing to read. They don't even let them talk or sit together.

We parents know, and the boys too, that the International Labor Defense and the workers have rallied all over the world to help save our boys. They have kept our boys alive these long three years. We Scottsboro mothers call on all the workers and the farmers and all the Negro people to get behind the International Labor Defense to help save our boys from the electric chair. If you will all write letters and telegrams to the warden in the jail and the Governor of Alabama and tell him that you will not stand his mishandling of our boys like he is doing, it will do them a lot of good.

N. R. A.

WHAT IT MEANS TO

WOMEN

By a Detroit Woman Auto Worker

More and more women are being drawn into the automobile industry to replace men. They run large punch presses and welders but get only a small percentage of the wages that men receive.

Under the N.R.A. "auto parts" automobile code, women are working in three eight-hour shifts because work is carried on 24 hours a day. Many accidents occur, especially during the midnight shift. During the last week in March, 35 women lost their fingers on punch presses because of the terrible speed-up. The number of pieces we have to put out is so high that many times we have to do "overtime" at the rate of 40 cents an hour.

One woman who lost three fingers died from shock and loss of blood. Women, who assemble parts, have to stand on their feet all day with foremen and straw bosses telling them "to step on it." Most of the women have children at home sick or without any care. They are compelled to go into industry because their husbands are unemployed or getting such low wages that they cannot pay their debts or get themselves and their children decent clothing.

But we are organizing, slowly but surely, and voicing our protests. In one plant women were getting 35 cents an hour while men were getting 72 cents an hour for the same work. By means of militant organization they got the same wages as the men. In other departments there have been walkouts and in almost all cases their demands have been won. This, in spite of the fact that we have been very slow in organizing the workers in this plant, the Ternstedt manufacturing plant, part of the General Motors Corporation and the biggest plant in the world—and the greatest exploiting factory of women in labor. Briggs had the reputation for the most accidents but Ternstedt beat them.

What a contrast to the conditions in the Soviet Union where women do not have to worry about their children, where they do not have to worry if they are going to have another child; where, after working hours, they can go to the theatre, or to school—and not spend their leisure doing the week's wash or cleaning up the house.

We in Ternstedts are organizing. The American Federation of Labor is doing its best to stop the revolutionary enthusiasm of the workers to strike but slowly we are going ahead and in the next article we send we hope to tell you of the victories we have won.

Wholesale Butchery—Inhuman Speed Up
Midland Steel Product Company, Detroit
During Past Ten Weeks

Killed—4 Workers

Injured—50-60

(Extent of injuries—fingers or hands cut off.)

Thursday April 5, a young woman was killed by a piece of steel which fell from an overloaded crane, and another woman had her small finger cut off at the same time, but she was forced to resume her work at the press. This is just one example of what happens every day to workers in the auto industry.

These accidents and deaths are due directly to the lack of safety measures in the factory. Many of the presses trip and double trip because they are worn out or need repair. The falling of stock or the breakage in the cables are due to the overloading of steel on the racks. Sometimes these racks are stacked to a man's height with no guards on the sides to keep the steel falling on top of the helpless men and women working below. But what do the bosses care? Labor is plentiful and cheap. Why should the bosses go to the expense of protecting the workers by making the machinery and equipment safe for the workers? Their lives, their fingers, and their hands are not being sacrificed.



I am a young woman, 23 years old. When I get home I am completely exhausted. Very seldom are we able to go beyond our day rate, which is 48 cents an hour. The company's profit last year was \$672,728 in 1933, not counting the high salaries and bonus to high officials given by themselves. In 1932 there was a net loss of \$221,295. So the N.R.A. is a big success for our industrial bosses.

Workers! This exploitation, this ruthless and senseless killing and maiming of workers must stop! There is only one way to stop it—by organizing and protesting. Therefore, we call on men and women, Negro and white, to organize into the Auto Workers' Union. Make Detroit a union town. Let us come into the streets May 1, and demonstrate against war and fascism, against the miserable exploitation of our comrades. Let us determine to change that system which makes it possible to crush the workers.

Long live the solidarity of the Negro and white!
All out on May 1, 26 Grand Circus Park, Detroit, Mich.
R. B.



SLAVERY IN CHINESE TEXTILE MILLS

By WANG YIN

I am a worker. I have worked in the Cotton Weaving Department of the New Ewo Cotton Mill, Shanghai, British owned, and employing 3,000 workers. Work begins at 6 A. M. and stops at 6 P. M.

The only ventilation in the mill comes from 4 square windows at the top of the building. The other small round windows on the sides are never opened. The air in the building is foul. We were hardly able to breathe and our clothes were always wet with perspiration.

The machines are arranged so that there are 12 aisles across the room between the machines and 34 running the length of the room. Each of these lines has 26 machines across and 30 to 40 machines lengthwise.

The 2 machines of which each one of us has charge are placed one behind the other instead of next to each other. The worker next to me cannot come to my machines and I cannot go over to her side. If I wish to pass, I must go to the rear of the room. There are no protective instruments in the mill. Any unexpected danger can occur at any time. If the shuttle falls out of the machine it can puncture our bodies. When the wheel of the machines turns, if we are not extremely careful we can be carried up by the leather belt. The machine repairers are exposed to even more danger. The ground of the mill is always wet and many of the workers have already contracted diseases due to this condition.

**JAPANESE
Women Rejoice
in the Streets
Over the Victory
of Their Strike
Against the
Textile Mill Owners**

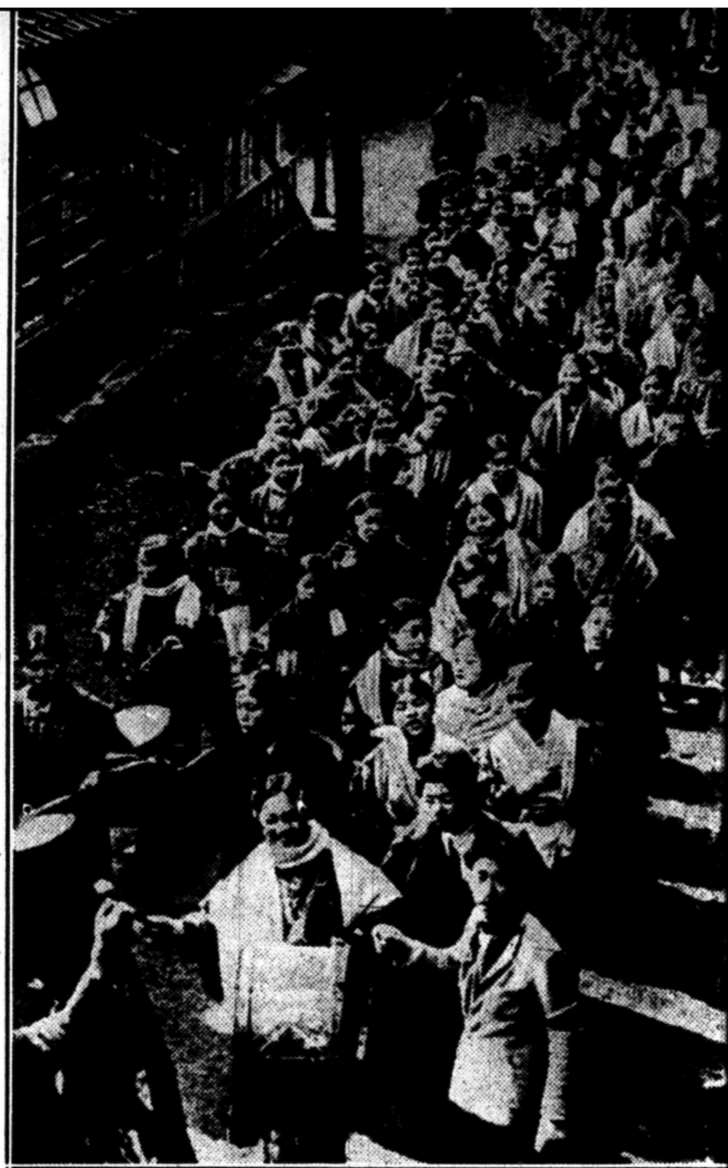
Young girls of 12 and 13 years of age work in the mill. They are ragged and barefoot. Their legs and feet are black and diseased from the dampness of the floors. The girls, who have no money to buy food, watch the others eat and long for a crumb of the food. They are treated cruelly and are continually beaten but they dare not utter a word for fear of losing their jobs. They are thin and undernourished. While they eat their poor quality

black rice they are not permitted to stop the machines. They never have enough food, but they eat plenty of cotton dust.

I stopped working at that factory. Why? Because the hours were to be increased to 16 per day. My health could not endure such working days.

Mrs. Ho, a woman worker in the mill, told me later, "I don't know what I shall do. I have 2 children, At night I cannot have a good sleep on account of the restlessness of my children; in the daytime I have to work in the mill. This is why my eyes are difficult to open. We have to get up at 4 o'clock. If we reach the mill at 5 o'clock we can't get in. If we do not work a day, we do not have anything to eat. What shall I do."

Since the beginning of the 16 hour day, many of the workers have become too ill to work at all. Such are the conditions under which the workers in the Sin Ewo cotton Mill must toil.



EDITH BERKMAN ARRESTED
AT LAWRENCE, MASS.

By EDITH BERKMAN
Organizer, National Textile
Workers Union

Our day of working class solidarity, May Day, is approaching. On this day, yearly since 1890, our brothers and sisters, the world over, come out to protest against the brutal rule of the boss-class. On May 1st 1934 we join our hands and raise our voices against this system of hunger and war; for a Soviet America. In one mighty cry we shout our demands for better working conditions. We demand that a stop be put to capitalist terror! We demand the freedom of our class-war prisoners.

DEFEND YOUR LEADERS!

(Edith Berkman is being held for deportation because of her active leadership in the 1931 Lawrence textile strikes. Women workers, raise a mighty protests! Demand from Secretary of Labor Perkins the cancellation of the deportation order.)

We, doubly exploited working women who work for low wages, we have a history of class struggle behind us. In every strike for better conditions, in America, we are among the most energetic fighters. Our sisters, in Austria, fought side by side with their brothers and fathers against fascism—against the brutal rule of the boss class. In China we find women workers fighting in the trenches, just as bravely as their men comrades, to free themselves from their oppressors. In Cuba the women are fighting beside their men comrades.

In every capitalist country, women are fighting against the boss-class; and the coming imperialist war will find women fighting on the side of

the working class against the boss class. In the Soviet Union alone, where the workers rule, our sisters are building socialism side by side with the men.

On May Day we must remember that it is our job to free Tom Mooney, the Scottsboro boys, Herndon. We must pledge ourselves to fight for the release of our German comrade Ernst Thaelman and all who are under the Hitler heel. We must fight against deportations of foreign born workers.

Women workers, Negro and white, organize regardless of race and nationality. Unity of all the workers will defeat the bosses and pave the way for the real freedom and equality for a Soviet America.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY CONVENTION

By ANNA DAMON
(Continued from page 7)

A Negro woman delegate from Detroit spoke of her personal experiences on the National Hunger Marches, 1931, 1932: "Who were the most militant fighters in the Hunger March? Were they the women? Comrades, the answer is yes. When we arrived in Washington we marched solidly for eleven hours and in this march not a woman gave out. Not only on the Hunger March—I was one who participated in 1932 in the strikes in the automobile industry in the city of Detroit and there we could see an example of who was the militant fighter, who went to the front to support the men with stones in order to combat the police."

Comrade —, from the Southern Illinois coal fields, told of the great struggles put up by the women through the women's auxiliaries of the P.M.A., how they led picket lines, and how in many instances when the miners were ready to give up the fight, they were urged on by the women. They were shamed into continuing the fight because of the militancy of the women who were determined to fight to a bitter end the

coal barons to win bread for their children. Although a young member in the Party, she has done splendid work in winning away from the corrupt leadership of the P.M.A. rank and file members of the auxiliaries, many of whom joined the Communist Party. She urged greater attention be given by the delegates on their return for work in their respective fields to recruit more women into the Party.

The Convention, which lasted five days, carefully studied the political and economic situation of the country, adopted resolutions to guide the work in the future, as well as a new central executive committee, the leadership of the Communist Party. The Convention closed amid great enthusiasm, the delegates went back to their districts, shops, mines and mills with a clearer understanding of how to carry on the fight against Roosevelt's program of starvation and war, for the fight against fascism and imperialist war, and in defense of the Soviet Union, for the organization of the workers and farmers preparing for a Soviet America.



Have you seen "Stevadore?" The play that is being run nightly, to full houses, at the Civic Repertory Theatre under the auspices of the Theatre Union? If you have not we urge you not to miss it; to be sure to buy your tickets ahead of time and hear this drama written by Paul Peter and George Sklar of the workers along the New Orleans docks. The principal parts are excellently taken by colored actors and actresses including stars from "Porgy", "In Abraham's Bosom," and "Green Pastures."



MAY DAY Greetings

**Big Scottsboro Theatrical Festival
at the Workers' Camp Detroit**

SUNDAY, MAY, 27, 1934

Beginning 11 A.M.

All Day Affair

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Sports, Refreshments

ADMISSION 15c

Aspices: Detroit Scottsboro Defense
Committee and International Labor
Defense Committee

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then wait for Camp bus. By Auto: Drive
out Grand River to Halstead Road. Turn
right on Halstead and watch for signs
to Workers' Camp.

**Carpenters' Local of the
Trade Union Unity League
Detroit, Mich.**

Dr. B. Sherman
Macabee Building
Detroit, Mich.

Dr. M. Salutzky
Macabee Building
Detroit, Mich.

**Progressive Women's Council
of Lodge Park
Detroit, Mich.**

Ukrainian Working Women
Branch of U.U.T.O.
Hartford, Conn.

U.W.W.S. Local No. 3

J. Peterka Fulton
A. Kozak John Stacka
A. D. Rofce

Ukrainian Women's Club
A.L.D.L.D. Branch No. 79
Chicago, Illinois

P. Printavish Kaviokos
rMs. M. Olsen P. Poponoff
Ellen Salmina G. Dickson
Mary Leketa A. Bitumoky
K. Anderson Mary Stoikoff
George Popoff
Waukegan, Illinois

From Pittsburgh Workers

H. Remaly Carmel Garcia
Edward Winkler Mrs. Pemaly

Ekamen

I. Homas W. Toffolori
J. Albans Bill Rimsky
Theo Mower
Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Greetings from
WOMENS CLUB**
Stamford, Conn.

Forward Comrades!

Toward a Victorious Red May Day
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tariat, Finnish Working Women's Clubs
Astoria, Oregon

Finnish Women's Club

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