

WOMEN BITTERLY EXPLOITED IN INDUSTRY; ANSWER WILL BE GREATER ORGANIZED STRUGGLE

A. F. of L. Endorses Bosses' Maneuvers Against The Working Woman; March 8 To Be Big Day

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

In their efforts to throw the burden of the crisis off their own shoulders the capitalists use many devices. They not only make a head-on attack against the working class as a whole, heaping upon it the weight of unemployment, wage cuts, etc., but they also make special attacks upon the least protected sections of the workers. It is in line with this general strategy that we see the Fish Committee making such a vicious onslaught against the foreign-born workers. Likewise, the present growing lynching terror against the Negroes.

Naturally, in such a situation the women workers would be sure to face a special attack, and this has not delayed in developing. They have been subjected to the most vicious wage cuts, speed up, and lay offs. Now there is a definite move to drive whole categories of them out of industry altogether. This is being done as one of the typical fake capitalist "remedies" against unemployment. The slogan is that all women who are openly supported by their husband's wages or by other family income must get out of industry and be supplanted by male workers.

A. F. of L. Endorses Bosses' Maneuvers

This movement is quite widespread. For example, Governor Allen's unemployment committee in Massachusetts seems to think that this is a very important way to contribute to the liquidation of unemployment. Of course, the A. F. of L., which reflects every reactionary move of the bosses, supports this maneuver also. The Women's Trade Union League joins in the attempt to drive the women from industry. Various local bodies of the A. F. of L. do the same, as for example, the Cedar Rapids Federation of Labor, which openly endorses the bosses' plans.

The alleged purpose of this latest scheme is to eliminate "pin money" workers and give their employment to deserving heads of families. But this is nonsense. Aside from being one of the many ways for shoving upon the workers the burden of maintaining the unemployed, it is also a very definite part of the employers' rationalization program.

Older Women Driven From Industry

It is highly significant that it is the older women workers who are being driven from industry. Whereas just ten years ago the census showed that over sixty per cent of women workers were aged from 25 to 45, now the rule is not to hire women workers over 27 years old. As also in the case of men workers, the capitalists want only the most active and strong. But, typically, they cover up this brutality with hypocritical pretenses of promoting the welfare of the workers.

Our Party and the Trade Union Unity League must, of course, take up militantly the defense of the women workers from these attacks. We must unreservedly fight for the right of all women, married or not, to work in the industries. We must put forward our whole program of special demands for women workers. The fight of women for the right to work is one of the most fundamental aspects of the woman's struggle for emancipation.

March 8 a Good Opportunity

But in order for this fight to be made more effectively, all our organizations must take up energetically the question of organizing the women. As yet, hardly a start has been made at this vital work in most instances. The organization of our women's department in all stages of our Party structure is very important. And likewise the intensification of the work among women by all the

Demand Hot Food For Mich. Children

DETROIT, Mich. — A council of working women was organized at Warren Township three weeks ago and this council has already begun work.

The members of this council, together with the local unemployed council, went to the school board and placed the following demands:

That workers' children be given hot dinners in school; that the gym of the school be given to the Workers' Athletic Club for use (this demand was already granted); that workers of Warren Township be allowed to use the gym for an open forum on Sunday.

The answer was that the board would have to write to Lansing, Mich., before they could grant any of the demands.

At the last meeting of the Working Women's Council of Warren Township, a committee was elected to go to the school board and demand an answer, and if the demands are not granted, then the council is going to call mass meetings and organize to appear before the school board in a mass demonstration.

TRAINING WOMEN FOR THE IMPERIALIST WAR

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — As part of the bosses' war scheme a crack girl's rifle team was organized in the Carnegie Technical Institute in Pittsburgh, under the leadership of an officer from the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The bosses and their government propose to use women in active service in the next imperialist war which they are preparing against the Soviet Union. Working class women all over the United States will pledge to defend the Soviet Union on International Women's Day.

CUT STEEL WAGES

With the merging of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation and McClintic-Marshall, which makes this the second largest steel corporation in America, the wages of the workers in the Leetsdale, Pa. plant were cut from 35 cents and 45 cents to 25 cents.

unions affiliated to the Trade Union Unity League.

An excellent opportunity for us to rally the women to our standards is presented by International Women's Day on March 8. This day will be the occasion for demonstrations and organization work of all kinds in every country. With even a little work on our part large numbers of women in American industry can be aroused in connection with the general movement and drawn closer to our program and organization. We must make International Women's Day a big success. It must be made the point from which a new era in our work among women will date.