

Find Latin-American Tenants Receptive to May Day Ideas

(This is the nineteenth of a series of articles exposing the conditions under which workers are forced to live in New York City. The first part of the exposure described conditions in Negro Harlem. The Daily Worker is now engaged in exposing the conditions in Latin-American Harlem. The present article deals with the workers from various Latin-American countries.)

By SOL ALEXANDER

XIX.

MAY DAY, 1935. Finds thousands of Latin-American workers in New York City, suffering all the evils of exploitation, exploitation first of all because they are workers, then added to that because they are foreigners, on top of that because many of them are colored.

REST AFTER ARDUOUS LABORS

WASHINGTON, April 30 (UP)—The Supreme Court today recessed after a short decision session until Monday, May 13. No decision was announced in the O'Fallon railroad valuation case.

Don't forget May First at the Coliseum.

As the cafeteria workers pressed with their organization drive they will find that Latin-American workers make up a great percentage of cafeteria workers employed by the large corporations. That the organization of the automatic will make necessary the organization of many Porto Rican workers, to whom organization has never been talked

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before and who have been so intimidated and cowed by the barriers put up by bosses and landlords, that they can be forced to act as strike-breakers in large numbers, unless the bosses' vicious propaganda is counteracted.

Many Cafeteria Workers.

The organization of the Porto Rican workers is important for the complete organization of the cafeterias in New York City. As we proceeded from house to house in our investigation of lower Harlem, we found that the largest group of workers were employed in the cafeterias, many of them as dishwashers at about \$12 per week, working 10 to 12 hours per day.

Before entering the homes of the Latin-American workers in Harlem, I was led to believe that many of the Porto Rican workers were backward and inaccessible to the ideas of militant class struggle. I was told that they have been so intimidated by the exploiters that they would be difficult to organize.

Porto Ricans Receptive.

That is not true. I was not kicked out of any homes or cursed. In spite of the fact that Porto Ricans have been forced into holding a low position in the esteem of the respectable Latin-American colony, when approached as class brothers, they are receptive to the ideas of the anti-imperialist movement and of the class struggle. Many of them have never heard of the Communist movement and expressed great surprise when presented with our literature both in English and Spanish.

Everyone Works.

THE Latin Americans are very friendly and hospitable people. Once convinced of your sincerity they will invite you in, take your hat and coat, and the whole family will gather about you, only too glad to listen and talk.

During our stay in their houses we found that a large percentage of them were unemployed, that everyone capable of working in the family, was either working or looking for a job.

Militant Workers.

At the Lozada household on East 110th Street we were surprised at the fervor with which we were received by the family and their extreme interest in our work, although they had never before been drawn into working class activity. Two of the older girls worked in shops, one as a milliner, the other as a dress-

maker, while the youngest girl, just arrived from Venezuela, brought her work home from the dress factory.

The milliner is very militant and would make an excellent speaker. She told us that the Spanish speaking girls in her shops were made to work fifteen minutes longer than the other girls and when they came in one minute late they were docked for fifteen minutes. She makes about \$22 a week at piece work and led a spontaneous strike in her shop a year ago.

May Day Adherents.

Helen Zarraga, the dressmaker, had just left one shop where she worked on kimonos because the boss made her work three and four hours overtime without pay. She is now working on dresses, piece work, and makes between \$22 and \$25 a week.

These girls, together with their younger sister and mother, will all be present at the May Day demonstration in the Coliseum.

We found a Porto Rican family on the East Side, the father of who had been unemployed for six months before finding a job as elevator operator at \$21 per week. His wife took her work home and between cleaning and cooking tried to make something on making lamp shades. She got \$3.75 per dozen. If she was a fast worker it would take her 2 days to make a dozen.

From Father to Children.

Home work is a common institution here. We found many mothers and young girls working on dresses, ornaments and lamp shades in the kitchen of their homes.

The father of this family we found living at 1659 Madison Ave., where he paid \$40 for five rooms. He is a tobacco worker, 57 years old, and makes \$15 per week. His son, who lives with him, works as an errand boy and makes \$12 per week. From father to son and daughter, it is all work, and nothing but work.

Must Stay Here.

As the daughter said: "Why should we remain here? All we do is work and work in order to pay rent and buy food. After that we have nothing left."

Almost every Latin-American worker we spoke to said that he was planning to go back to his home country where he did not have to salve as much as here. But one needs money for that and after paying for rent and food there is nothing left.

More for May Day.

In a Cuban family of six, living

PICK DELEGATES FOR MAY 4 MEET

Unions, Shop Groups Call Women Workers

Women workers in the fur trade and the shoe industry are being called to special meetings by their respective unions. The meetings will create shop organizations in unorganized shops, and send delegates from organized and unorganized shops to the special shop delegate women's conference called by the Trade Union Educational League to meet May 4 at Irving Plaza Hall, Irving Pl. and 15th St.

Local 22 of the dressmakers has endorsed this conference and at its last meeting elected delegates to attend.

Shop Committees.

Efforts are being made now to form shop groups at Macy's department store, and Schrafft's restaurants and candy shops. Shop committees are being organized in the great Nabisco plant in New York, and in the International Handkerchief Co.

All this is but a part of the intensifying campaign to make this shop delegate conference a truly representative one, of the varied industries of this section. It will be preparatory to the Trade Union Unity Conference of June 1 and 2 in Cleveland where a plan for organizing the unorganized and establishing a new militant trade union center will be worked out.

In an apartment of seven rooms at West 112th Street for which they paid \$60, we found four workers. Two of them, cafeteria workers, are at present unemployed. The third, a cafeteria worker, is employed at \$24 per week and the fourth is employed as a clerk.

One of these, who said he was not politically minded, found nothing wrong with Machado, the butcher of Cuba, to find that his brothers ridiculed him and set him right. They too will be present at the May Day demonstration.

Come to Coliseum.

In another six room apartment on the west side for which they paid \$60 we found a family of seven with five workers, all fortunate enough to be employed at present. In the Torrellas household the 55-year-old father works at the Sunshine Biscuit Company for \$26.50 per week. The 18-year-old boy works in a piano factory at dry sandpapering for \$18 a week; a 40-year-old woman works in an embroidery shop at \$14 a week; one of the workers works for the I. R. T. at \$32 per week and another woman does homework in stone ornaments at six cents a gross. She sometimes makes as low as 50 cents a day, sometimes as high as one dollar.

They, too, are extremely interested in May Day and its meaning for them. They, too, will be present at the May Day Celebration at the Coliseum this afternoon.

We Must Reach Them.

These families are fairly representative of the mass of Latin American workers in Harlem. Every available bit of labor power in the family is used. Where it is impossible to work in a factory, they must take their work home. Wages are low, employment is not assured them.

The South American families especially are very receptive to our movement and need only a little interest and encouragement from us to join hands against the exploiters.

Latin American tenants, you will find that the mass May Day parade starting today from Union Square at 1 p. m. will lead you in the correct direction in the fight against the exploiters. Follow the lead of your brothers and come to the mass demonstration of New York workers at the Coliseum, 177th St., Bronx.

Continue to follow the Daily Worker in its exposure of housing conditions and description of the tenant's problems. Latin American workers, come to Centro Obrero de Halba Espanola, 55 W. 133rd Street, where you will find class conscious workers, leaders in the struggle against the exploiters.

Tenants are invited to write in freely to the Daily Worker about the conditions under which they are forced to live.

Workers Struggle Against Right Wing Reaction

ship of local 43 to the vicious attack of President Zaritzky and his administration was a determined one in favor of the left wing leadership and its policies, the General Executive Board expelled the local. This was in absolute violation of the International's constitution.

Became Class Conscious.

Far from bullying local 43 or other expelled members into accepting the reactionary policies of the International's leadership or destroying the local, the net result has been growing class consciousness on the part of these workers and an even clearer understanding of the traitorous role being played by the Zaritzky administration. The struggle has taught thousands of women workers belonging to local 43, what the differences are between right and left wing leadership.

Their increased class consciousness is causing them to fight for their principles and demands with even greater determination. That this is so can be seen from the marked interest and great activity of the whole membership in the discussion of the local's platform in connection with the convention and election of delegates to it. Delegates are being elected as the local does not recognize its expulsion by the G. E. B. and is appealing that action to the national convention.

Have No Illusions.

However, the membership of local 43, has no illusions as to the possibility of being reinstated. This could clearly be seen from the nature of the many speeches made by rank and file members at the general membership meeting held early in April when the action of the

to re-admit local 43 or the other expelled members as long as they continue to maintain the platform which led to their expulsion. The absolutely uncompromising unanimously adopted demands of local 43 as expressed in the election of delegates who stand pledged to fight for the same principles which the local proclaimed before the illegal expulsion are as follows:

Workers Demands.

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

Both the industrial educational activities of the local and actual barricade fighting has won the unanimous support of local 43's membership for the sixth of its demands; "For Unity of all cap and millinery workers with the new Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. Stopping at nothing the Zaritzky machine is making a few frantic last minute efforts, before the convention, to intimidate local 43 members. If by its armed attack on the downtown office of local 43, beating and wounding of several girls and having 18 of them arrested; if by raiding the office and breaking its windows, local 24 hopes to "win" the support of working women at present members of local 43, they have only succeeded in exposing themselves all the more