

WOMEN IN THE MINE STRIKE

By ANNA DAMON.

The splendid response of the miners in Southern Illinois to the call of the National Miners' Union to strike the mines is proof that they are wide awake to the fact that only through a militant uncompromising fight under the leadership of the National Miners' Union can they win better conditions for themselves and their families. This lesson has been taught them by the bosses and the A. F. of L. by the Lewis, Farrington, Fishwick fakers, who have sold out their interests time and again to the bosses.

Keenly aware of the kind of a battle the miners will have to put up, their wives have joined them and are taking their place side by side with the striking miners. On the first day they led the picket lines; in the front rows came these heroic women to help fight the joint forces of labor reaction, and the police.

This is not the first time that women have marched to the front in picket lines. In the class battles of recent years women workers and wives of workers have shown their class consciousness by fighting side by side with the men workers.

In the recent class struggles fought by the Industrial Unions against the bosses and the A. F. of L. fakers to gain better conditions for the workers in the mining, needle, textile, food and shoe industries the women workers fought militantly together with the men their common enemy, the capitalist class.

Other Battles.

We well remember the valiant fight put up by the wives of the miners in Pittsburgh and the textile workers in the South. They fought shoulder, to shoulder with their husbands and brothers in the mills and on the picket line. Out they came in the front lines against the police and the hired gangsters of the A. F. of L.

In the present strike the wives of the miners can and will play a leading role. They can help win the strike by encouraging the men,

making light of the difficulties by setting an example on the picket lines. They can help spread the strike by visiting the wives of the miners not yet on strike to help awaken the class feeling in them and prove to them that only through a solid front of the miners can they beat off the attacks of the bosses, can they hope to win better conditions for themselves and their families.

Must Organize.

The wives of the miners on strike must become organizers for the National Miners' Union, and under their leadership through their auxiliaries give full help and co-operation to the strike leaders. The only way to win the strike is through a solidified fighting front of the miners and their wives. The wives of the miners must realize that this will be a tough fight, a fight to a finish, it will require day-in and day-out work. The more active ones will have to draw in the less active ones into the struggle, every day there must be a 100 per cent turn out on the picket lines. The first days of the strike so splendidly begun must continue. The wives of the miners must carry on a struggle against the traitors; all those elements that show passivity in the strike. From the very first day it is to be a strike of the whole family against the rotten conditions imposed upon them by the bosses and the A. F. of L. fakers.

A Political Struggle.

The successful winning of the strike and building of the National Miners' Union will be the first step towards improving the conditions of the miners and their families. The conditions of the miners and the workers as a whole are never secure under the present capitalist system. Speed-up, unemployment, worsening of workers' conditions are the evils of capitalism.

Not only must the wives of the miners help in the present strike but they must become keenly aware of the political aspect of the class struggle.

They must realize that it is only

by overthrowing the present capitalist system and establishing a government of the workers and farmers like that of Soviet Russia can the workers receive what justly belongs to them for their work, that in this country as well as all over the world the only political party that fights for the interests of the working class is the Communist Party, that in all the struggles of the workers the Communist Party leads the fight against the bosses to improve the conditions of the workers, to wipe the bosses of the face of this earth and to establish a Proletarian Dictatorship.

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