

WOMEN FIGHTERS

By ANNA DAMON

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day, 1930, is being celebrated all over the world under the leadership of the Communist International, champion of the workers of the world. The Communist International on the occasion of March 8th calls upon the workers and particularly the women workers to *mobilize for struggle* under the leadership of the Communist Party of their country, and to follow the lead of their Russian sisters and brothers to overthrow capitalism, and establish a Soviet Government in every country.

International Women's Day takes place at the time when the economic crisis is gripping the entire country, spreading throughout the capitalist world, at the time when preparations for imperialist war are hastening. In their struggle for the world

strike. While a cut of 160 million dollars in taxes has been granted by the government for the capitalists, not one cent has been allotted by them for the relief of the millions of unemployed working men and women and their families, who are thrown on the street to freeze and to starve.

What a different picture we find in Soviet Russia! While every imperialist country is in a serious economic crisis, the Soviet Union is enjoying the greatest prosperity. Wages of workers are going up. Working hours have been reduced to 6 and 7 daily



and medical care, and money to purchase the necessary clothes for the new child. After returning to work, she is entitled to one-half hour off in every three hours to feed the child. She brings the child to the nursery attached to the factory where it receives the best professional care and attention.

How different a condition in the United States! Here the women workers are forced to provide food for their children. They are practically unorganized. There are no laws to protect them against unemployment, sickness, old age. Women slave in the mills for starvation wages, give birth to the children at their machines in a number of cases, or work up to childbirth.

Unemployment has thrown over two million women workers on the street. There is hardly a family of the working class that does not feel heavily the burden of the economic crisis. The bosses are using these millions of unemployed workers as a whip over the employed. Those who revolt against the inhuman speed-up are threatened with losing their jobs.

International Women's Day, 1930, places important tasks upon the working women in the United States, *the task of organization*, to organize and to fight systematically against their miserable conditions. The unemployed and employed women should join with the men workers to *organize* into unemployment councils of the Trade Union Unity League. The working women have only the Communist Party to look forward to as one which champions the interests of the entire working class.



Photo Esther Lowell
(Above, right) A woman worker of the Soviet Union. Equal pay for equal work there.

(Above) A Negro woman toiler of the South. Her husband works in the lumber camps, she in the mill.

(Left) Women workers, young and old, crowd the job agencies looking for jobs. A group at the N. Y. State job bureau.

markets, the imperialists feverishly arm against one another and especially against the Soviet Union which is the only country in which unemployment is being abolished and where the workers enjoy a real socialist prosperity because they have abolished capitalism and reconstructed industry under workers' control.

Over six million workers in this country are out of jobs. At least two million are women from shops and mills. Many more millions of women and children, dependents of workers, are being thrown out of their homes, facing misery and starvation. The government, headed by Hoover and in agreement with the American Federation of Labor betrayers and the Women's Trade Union League, is throwing the burden of the crisis on the working class by increasing speed-up, lowering wages, taking away their right to organize and to

with one day's rest in every 5; additional social insurance for all workers, especially women. Unemployment is being stamped out. Millions of workers are being drawn into industry. This has been made possible by the 5-year plan of industrialization, the plan for building socialism in the Soviet Union. The first year of this plan has been completed. The successful results have surpassed all expectation. Already it is clear that the plan will be completed in four years. The devotion, sacrifices and determination of the working men and women of the Soviet Union to build Socialism has made this tremendous undertaking possible.

Especially does the Soviet government protect the women workers and the children. Special maternity laws entitle the women workers to a vacation two months before and after childbirth, during which time she receives full salary, free hospital