

The Significance of International Women's Day, March 8th

By ANNA DAMON

INTERNATIONAL campaigns of the working class play a very important role in the development of revolutionary events. March 8, International Women's Day is becoming more and more a day of struggle of the entire working class against extreme exploitation, unemployment and misery; against increased fascist reaction; against imperialist war, in defense of the Soviet Union.

March 8 is a campaign of the Communist International and of all its Sections, the Communist Parties of the world. The object of the campaign is to solidify and strengthen the international proletarian fighting front against capitalism, to call sharply to the attention of the whole working class, the special problems and demands of the working class women. To bring into the general struggle of the proletariat the Industrial, Negro and Farm women and wives of workers. On this day the toiling masses of women pledge their class solidarity to free women of the Soviet Union, to carry on revolutionary struggle in common with the other sections of the working class for the overthrow of the capitalist system.

In the United States March 8 is not yet a well-known campaign. Most workers haven't even heard of International Women's Day. Daily, we receive questions from workers, and from comrades directly engaged in work among women—as to what International Women's Day means; how it started; where it was first celebrated, and many other similar questions.

We believe it is therefore worth while to acquaint the workers with the important historic development of International Women Day, by a brief sketch.

Historic Development of March 8th

1908—At the conference of Socialist women in America they decided to set aside a special day for agitation and propaganda among women. Votes for women was the issue of the day and the main slogan of the Socialist women was "Equal Rights." Following the line of the 2nd International, which drew no class distinction, the Socialist Women's Conference in the United States in 1908 supported the feminist suffragette movement of the bourgeoisie. Two resolutions were passed at this conference. The first under pressure of the more class conscious elements, namely: "That the American Socialist Women must carry on a fight for equal rights independent of the feminists—through the unions and political organizations of the working class." The second resolution—"expressing sympathy with the feminist movement and wishing them success in their fight for equal rights." This opportunism and betrayal of class interest by the Socialist party was already evident in 1908.

International Women's Day Adopted

1910—The 2nd International Conference of Women held in Copenhagen, upon the motion of Clara Zetkin, it was decided that March 8 be set aside as an International Women's Day, the day was given a broader interpretation than merely the struggle for equal right to vote. The German delegation pointed out that the fight for political rights is not an aim in itself. That real freedom and equality for women will only be achieved through a social revolution.

1915—Under the leadership of Comrade Lenin, a resolution was introduced at the International Women's Conference held in Berne, Switzerland, by the Russian delegation, which was rejected by the Conference as too revolutionary. Resolutions and speakers stated: "That the liberation of women can only be achieved through united effort of the working class. Through the overthrow of the capitalist system. The years of 1914-17 practically did away with International Women's Day as an international mass day of struggle, due to the general betrayal of the working class by the socialist Second International and by their support and aid of the world war. It was the historic revolutionary task of the Russian Bolsheviks to revive the International Women's Day.

1917—On March 8, 1917, the women workers of the Putilov munitions factory in Leningrad marched out on the streets and were joined by hundreds of women demanding "bread and the return of their men-folk from the battlefield," thus helping pave the way to the October Revolution.

March 8 Day of Struggle Against Capitalism

In the Soviet Union, March 8th is a day of celebration of the emancipation of working class women. A day when the women celebrate the success of the 5 Year Plan. A day when they review the great gains of the working and farm women under the Soviet rule. A day when they pledge to further carry on the building of Socialism side by side with the men.

It was after the formation of the Communist Third International that International Women's Day, March 8, really became a revolutionary world campaign of proletarian solidarity of men and women for special women's demands, against capitalist exploitation, and against imperialist wars.

1920—Since 1920 International Women's Day has been celebrated in every country under the leadership of the Communist Parties, sections of the Communist International.

1932—International Women's Day 1932 is being celebrated under two totally different systems: the capitalist system and the socialist system. In capitalist countries, and in the workers' country—covering one-sixth of the world. The celebration and demonstrations take on different characters in these two worlds.

Women Win Freedom Through Revolution

In the Soviet Union the conditions of the workers are steadily improving, there is no unemployment. In fact there is a shortage of labor. The 7-hour day prevails in most industries. Special social insurance is provided for all workers. The work of building socialism is going ahead at full speed. The 5-year plan of industrialization and collective farming is being successfully completed in four years. The second five-year plan is being launched which will further improve the conditions of the workers. In all the gains of the workers in the Soviet Union the women have benefited most. Equal pay for equal work is a reality. Special maternity and social insurance is provided for the women workers. The thousands of communal dining rooms, laundries, children's homes and nurseries have freed the women from the drudgery at home and have made it possible for the

the overthrow of capitalism and through the establishment of a proletarian dictatorship can women really be free.

Demonstrate Against Government of Hunger and War

In the capitalist countries the world over, International Women's Day, March 8, comes at the time of the third year of an extreme economic crisis, which is continually deepening and which women to take part in the building of socialism. Working women should realize that only thru the bosses are trying to solve at the expense of the working class, at a time when the capitalist powers are looking towards imperialist war, as a way out of the crisis. Imperialist war against the Chinese masses, is already a reality in the Far East. A war of intervention against the Soviet Union comes nearer daily, with growing open acts of provocation against the Soviet Union, seizure of the Chinese Eastern Railway, armed occupation of Manchuria, and an embargo on Soviet goods.

Join in Demonstrations on March 8th.

March 8 comes at a time when there are over 50 million unemployed workers suffering misery and starvation the world over, as well as increased political reaction and terror at the hands of the capitalist class. Wage-cuts, part-time work, speed-up, is the order of the day of the capitalist system. The working class, and especially the working women, are paying very heavy penalties. Living conditions become worse daily. Undernourishment, sickness and death are on the increase. Therefore, International Women's Day in the capitalist countries, and especially in the United States, becomes a day of struggle against unemployment, wage-cuts, speed-up, stagger plan, against dismissals and discrimination of married and Negro women. A day of fight for Federal Unemployment Insurance, for equal pay for equal work, for special maternity insurance, against night work for women.

Negro and white working men and women, join in demonstration on March 8, International Women's Day!

Fight against imperialist war, in defense of the Soviet Union!

Join the Communist Party of U.S.A.!

NOTE:—Other articles dealing with problems of Working Women will appear during International Women's Day campaign. All comrades from the districts are urged to write articles.

On the Second 5-Year Plan

By V. MOLOTOV.

PART I.

Full Text of the Report Delivered at the XVII. Party Conference of the C. P. S. U.

Comrades!

THE very fact that our Party is proceeding to discuss the tasks of the Second Five-Year Plan speaks for itself. It shows, first of all, that our first Five-Year Plan is being successfully carried out. It further shows that we are absolutely certain that the year 1932 will see the completion of the Five-Year Plan, that we shall fulfill the first Five-Year Plan in four years.

One must consider more closely the importance of this fact, the fact of the drawing up of the second Five-Year Plan of the Soviet Union.

Firstly, regarding the international importance of this fact.

The international importance of this fact is that the workers of all countries, that the working population of all countries are able to compare the results of the rule of the bourgeoisie in the capitalist States with the results, with the first results, of the rule of the working class in the country of the proletarian dictatorship. In this respect we are not afraid of a comparison with the technically, and economically most advanced, with the richest countries in the capitalist world. At the present time, when the crisis has seized all capitalist countries and is becoming ever deeper and is destroying industry and the other branches of economy, a comparison between the bourgeois States and the Soviet Union is particularly striking. This comparison provides us with the opportunity to answer without hesitation the question, to whom the future belongs, to the proletariat and its power or to the bourgeoisie and its rule. It is clear that from the international standpoint our success, the great success of socialist construction, which is embodied in the successful realization of the Five-Year Plan and now in the first proposals

of the second Five-Year Plan, demonstrates to the workers and toilers of the whole world that the future belongs, not to the rule of the bourgeoisie, but to the dictatorship of the proletariat; that the facts speak against capitalism and for Socialism.

Secondly, regarded from the inner Soviet point of view, the fact of our going over to the tasks of the second Five-Year Plan, is likewise exceedingly significant.

It is one of the decisive tests of what the leadership of the peasant masses by the working class, after the overthrow of the power of the bourgeoisie, yields. In the Soviet Union, for the first time in the history of the world, power is in the hands of the working class, which is leading the toiling masses of the countryside with it and, together with it, is transforming the whole national economy on a socialist basis. Our success, the great success of the working class, lies in the fact that the building up of Socialism is taking place not only in the town but also in the countryside, that the most backward part of the working population, the toilers of the village, are beginning to rise up to Socialism, towards the classless society.

Finally, from the immediate economic standpoint, our successes are successes of planned socialist construction. In no country in the world before has a planned State economy existed. Here we are making the first steps, and the results are already evident. From the solution of individual tasks we shall proceed to new and, with every year, greater tasks.

The success of planned socialist economy is not only and not even so much the success of our planned economic organs. Our planning and our calculations are not limited to these relatively narrow confines. A proper economic work, the organizing of national economic statistics and the working out of the plan can be carried out, and in fact will be carried out, only