



March 8th

A Day of Struggle

By ANNA DAMON

March 8th, International Women's Day, is a historic day of struggle against capitalist oppression and imperialist war. It had its origin in the United States in 1908 when working women set aside a special day for agitation for women's suffrage.

At the International Conference of Women Socialists in 1910, Clara Zetkin, veteran Communist leader of Germany, introduced a resolution which was adopted to set aside March 8th as International Women's Day. The purpose of the resolution was not only to fight for the right for women to vote, but to mobilize the men and women to fight for special women's demands—a day to represent the struggle against capitalism which doubly enslaves women.

Working Women's Magazines

In 1911 the first workingclass women's magazine the "Gleichheit" (Equality) appeared in Germany edited by Clara Zetkin. On March 8th, 1914, the first working women's magazine, "Rabotnitza" (The Working Woman) was published in Russia through the initiative and guidance of Comrade N. Lenin, and edited by his sister, Anna Ilyinshna.

During the World War, in line with the general betrayal of the working class by the Socialist Parties and the Second Internationale—who voted and endorsed the imperialist war—the struggle to better conditions for women in shops, mills and factories was also abandoned.

It was the Bolsheviks in Russia who organized the women in the Putilov Ammunition plant in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) to stop work, on International Women's Day, and demonstrate for their rights,

On March 8th, 1917, the women of tsarist Russia, defying the brutal terror of the police, left the factories and marched into the streets demanding "bread and an end to the capitalist war." Their action was

thus the forerunner of the great *October Revolution*.

In 1919 with the organization of the Third Communist Internationale, under the direct leadership of Comrade Lenin, International Women's Day was the day set aside by the Communist Parties affiliated with the Communist Internationale. It was from that time on a day of revolutionary significance; a day which annually was given to the special task to mobilizing working women for active participation in the struggles of the working class; for immediate demands; for preparation in the final struggle that will free the working class.

New Deal—A Raw Deal

We are approaching March 8th, 1934, a time when new chains of slavery are being forged by the "liberal" Roosevelt administration.

The New Deal, the N.R.A., is a desperate attempt of the United States government to solve the crisis, now in its fifth year, at the expense of the workers. The women and children are especially singled out as the worst sufferers, discriminated against on the jobs, and in the distribution of relief.

The industrial codes of the NRA sanction lower wages for women.

Negro women are discriminated against on all jobs receiving lowest wages for the hardest work, and also in the distribution of relief. They are the first ones to be fired and evicted from their homes.

The N.R.A. is being used as a government instrument for militarizing industry and building up a tremendous war machinery in this country. While over 16,000,000 workers are out of jobs, which, including their dependents would number over 50,000,000, the government refuses to grant unemployment insurance but spends billions of dollars to build up an army and navy for the destruction of mankind; pre-

paring for imperialist WAR.

The N.R.A. has brought with it the inflated dollar which now is worth about 65 cents, and buys only that much worth of material goods, raising the prices of foodstuffs and other necessities sky high. With the low wages and meagre relief now being given it is almost impossible for families to make ends meet.

Soviet Union Shows the Way

The conditions of women in the United States are the same as that in every other capitalist country. It is only in the Soviet Union, where capitalism has been wiped out, that the workers, and the women in particular, are enjoying their full freedom and are now going ahead with the building of socialism, and showing the workers of other countries the way.

Women everywhere are beginning to realize more and more the need to struggle against their misery. Women have been in the forefront in most of the strikes and struggles against the lowering of wages, speed-up, stretch out, and stagger system of the N.R.A.

The aim of International Women's Day this year is to mobilize the broadest masses of women to struggle together with the men against the N.R.A. against the Roosevelt program of hunger and war.

Negro and White Working and Farm Women!

Join forces and fight for your rights!

Raise a Mighty Voice of Protest on International Women's Day against your Miseries!

Organize in the Shops, Factories, and Among the Unemployed For a Living Wage and for Special Women's Demands!

ORGANIZE MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON MARCH 8, AGAINST FASCISM AND WAR, AND IN DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION!

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209

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