

MAY DAY 1934

By ANNA DAMON

WE ARE APPROACHING MAY 1st! Forty-eight years ago, May 1, 1886, over a half million workers in America went on strike for the 8-hour day. Since then it has become a historic day of struggle against capitalism which enslaves the workers, and doubly enslaves the working women.

May Day, 1934, finds the workers in the U.S.A. struggling against the heavy burdens imposed upon them by American imperialism. In their attempt to get out of the terrific economic crisis Roosevelt has introduced the N.R.A. This hunger and war program has definitely proven to the working and farming masses that it is a program to help the bosses at the expense of the workers.

The rights of the workers guaranteed under the N.R.A. have been violated time and again. Conditions for workers and farmers have not improved: they became worse. Untold misery, want and starvation fills every workers home. Women and children are the greatest sufferers. Wage-cuts, lengthening of hours, speed-up, the open shop company union drive of the bosses, brutal police terror is used to smash every attempt of the workers to organize and strike.

In spite of all the threats and intimidation of the bosses, the workers are not accepting Roosevelt's starvation and war program of the N.R.A. They are fighting militantly for the right to live. The workers are determined to organize, strike and win their just demands.

There have been more strikes since the N.R.A. than in any year since 1919. Negro and white working and farm women have been and are today in the forefront of these struggles. In textile, steel, mining, automobile, shoe, needle—among the unemployed—the women are in the front ranks, braving police brutality, enduring starvation—fighting for a living wage for themselves and their children.

The working-class women, organized in Women's Councils in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit and other cities are fighting against the high cost of living, against the vicious fire-trap tenements and the high rents, for free food and clothing for the children of the unemployed. Women of all ranks have joined in

protest demonstration against Fascism and War and for the defense of the innocent Scottsboro boys.

May Day, 1934, imperialist powers are mobilizing for another world slaughter which will be the most devastating in the world history. They are preparing to destroy the Soviet Union—the only country where there is no crisis, the fatherland of the world working class.

In these war preparations U.S.A. is spending billions of dollars robbing the workers of their money, denying food to the millions of starving children for the sake of building the world's greatest army, navy and air fleet. All these preparations the Roosevelt administration would have us believe are in the interests of "peace."

The workers will not be fooled. Remember, working class women, the last world war? President Wilson and the pacifists had us believe them that there was no need of organizing an active struggle against war. *We did not organize*, and so in spite of their sweet pacifist speeches they betrayed us and plunged us into a war against our own interests—a bosses' war—a war that made the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Working class women! We must learn a lesson from the last war! Let us not sit patiently and wait until war is proclaimed, as the pacifists and the rich would have us do. Let us organize a real struggle against war NOW! Let us form anti-war committees in our shops, in our organizations. Let us build the American League Against War and Fascism and send delegates to the International Women's Congress Against War in Paris, July 28-29-30, 1934.

We, working-class women, will be called upon to run every industry, to produce ammunition and man transportation in the coming war. We will be called upon to give our sons to the capitalists to slaughter. *We cannot wait.* We have nothing to gain and everything to lose in another war. We must realize our strength. Let us, Negro and white women, join forces with the men in the shops, mills, neighborhoods. Together let us weld a strong chain of working class solidarity with our fellow workers against Roosevelt's starvation program—for the right to organize into militant unions—to strike and picket—for a living wage.

Working-class women! Get your organization to join in the United Front May Day Committee in your city. Come out and demonstrate your determination to fight for a better world.

Fight for equal pay for equal work for Negro and white women!

Strike against Roosevelt's program of hunger and war. Demand that U.S. Congress pass H.R. 7598—the Workers Social and Unemployment Insurance Bill!

All our in demonstration on May 1st! Against Fascism and imperialist war—For the defense of the Soviet Union! For the freedom of Thaelmann and all anti-fascist prisoners!

For the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of a Soviet America!

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