May Day Call to the Working Women of America

May Day, 1929, finds the working class of America deep in the throes of a great struggle with the forces of capitalistic imperialism. Millions of workers are walking the streets without a job, with starvation staring them in the face. Millions are slaving their lives away in mines, mills and workshops. Tolling under the lash of the capitalist speed-up, the workers of America and all other capitalist countries are driven beyond endurance in the race of their bosses to capture the world market. Wage-cuts, lengthening of hours, intensification of labor, the open-shop drive of the bosses to smash every attempt to organize and strike, police terror against militant workers, so the employers are conducting a bitter war of repression against the working class, which today in America is taking up the struggle against capitalist rationalization.

Women workers are in the forefront of these struggles of the working class in America. Today in the Southern textile strike as in New Bedford and Passaic they are fighting in the front ranks, braving police brutality and soldiers' bayonets, enduring starvation rather than the slavery of the mills, struggling against the speed-up and capitalistic rationalization. The needle trades workers are building a new militant union in the face of the attacks of the bosses allied with the police and the right-wing bureaucracy. The women military workers have resisted the efforts of their corrupt officials to destroy their union.

Everywhere in the mines and factory districts the women of the working class are fighting side by side with the men workers against the open shop drive and capitalist reaction.

Today on May Day, 1929, the great imperialist powers are rapidly mobilizing for another great war. War preparations are being carried on on a gigantic scale in all capitalist countries, feverish construction of new air fleets are greater navies, manufacture of munitions of war on an unprecedented scale, propaganda of nationalism and imperialism through every channel of capitalistic influence, the schools, the churches, press, movies, radio.

While they are preparing for war the capitalist powers seek to delude the masses with gestures of peace. Peace pacts, arbitration treaties, leagues of nations, world courts, disarmament conferences, pacifist congresses, are heaped on each other in an effort to throw a smoke screen over the imperialist war preparations.

The great powers of the capitalist world are preparing for the inevitable conflict for world domination. They are at each other's throats in the struggle for profits, for colonies, for markets, for mastery of the sea, for financial control and exploitation of all countries. At the same time they stand together waiting to spring upon Soviet Russia and attempt to destroy the first Workers' Republic.

The imperialist war plans are maturing rapidly. The new American empire has thrown aside the mask. Wall Street only and brazenly dictates to Washington and the world. Morgan, Lamont, Morrow, Young, all of the house of Morgan, represent Wall Street and Washington, all over the world today, in China, in Japan, Mexico, and Europe, and extend the rule of the mailed fist and the Yankee dollar in every corner of the world.

May Day, 1929, sends out a call especially to the women of the working class, to millions of toiling women, slaving for a mere pittance in the factories and workshops of America, borne down by poverty and drudgery in the home. Working women are the worst sufferers under capitalistic imperialism. They are the cheap and ready outlets of exploitation in capitalist mass production with its speed-up, low wages and long hours. They toll the longest hours for the lowest wages. They work in the greatest numbers in the heavy industry and others especially subject to selfish rationalization. They are being drawn into the great factory to replace men workers. In time of war they are forced to max the factories and produce the munitions and materials of war.

Mothers as well as workers, the working women in America today along with their sons in the open shop must see that the struggle continues and that the big strike of 1929 is the first step towards the general strike or unemployment.
The Working Woman

Police Try to Break Food Strike

HIGH RENTS, VILE HOUSES IS NEGRO'S LOT IN HARLEM

By Grace Lamb

The last vestige of the Emergency Rent laws disappeared on June first, and with it the last shadow of protection against greedy landlords. On December 1, 1928, all protection was withdrawn from the tenants living in 934 tenements housing $10 per room and over. The final abolition of the entire Emergency Rent Law this move makes it possible for landlords to raise rents without any restrictions or even a gram of notice. Each room, no matter how much less it is worth than the next, can be charged a different price per room. No group of tenants will be so hard hit by this legislation as the poor tenants of Harlem who are already overcharged. Municipal judges are showing little mercy toward the tenants from whom protection was removed last December. When the last eviction laws were in effect, they were unable to pay and were dispensed with for this reason, the common expression of the judges to the tenants is "Pay your rent or move out!".

Rent exploitation is at its worst in Harlem, where the poorest paid workers live and where the great Negro population of thousands of families crowded together in Ghetto conditions of overcrowding, poor housing and bad sanitation. The most disfavored tenants them from expanding into other districts and brings about terrible conditions of housing congestion and exorbitant rents. The Negro tenants are already overcharged. The Negro mothers and wives who must of necessity supplement their husbands' small pay by their own hands are the first to suffer. The Negro tenants have borne the hardship of insanitary housing conditions. Dumberwater service has often been lacking for years. The conditions that were at one time fire traps with wooden stairways, often lacking fire escapes. They have been suffering all manner of difficulties with hot and cold water. Now they have added to their burdens the hardship of higher rents and landlord insolence without any compensation.

It is time that all tenants of the working class, negro and white, should realize that they cannot expect relief from capitalist legislators and landlords. Only their own organized power as workers, and that alone can aid them. The capitalist judges should be made to know that the law for the benefit of their masters and exploiters and landlords. Working class tenants must maintain their own tenancy, and that for their own tenancy until they move in the Harlem Tenants League, in which negro and white workers fight together against the common enemy.

More than 150 women have come out on strike since the first one was arrested and beaten fellow-union men on the picket line. They will be found in front of the factories on 26th St., the Consolidated on 36th and 7th Ave., the Fenway, Monroe, Sunday, Brunswick—in short any "strike" cafeteria within the area of 46th and 95th Ave., from 18th to 36th Streets. As fast as the police arrest them, others are found to take their places and carry the placards.

WOMEN TO FOREFRONT IN CAFETERIA STRIKE

The women workers are without doubt the most exploited section of the working class and cafe- teria workers. The women workers are without doubt the most exploited section of the working class and cafeteria workers. They are forced to work at a much lower rate of pay and under most miserable conditions. Women are replacing men workers with every great extent, taking the places of counter girls and boys as waiters. While the men receive from 35 to 40 cents per hour the women are paid less than half of that amount and are forced to work longer hours into the bargain.

The wages and rotten conditions of the waitresses and counter and bus girls have become tyrannical. Because of the long hours on their feet, the constant contact with dirty dishes and sloppy work, the waitresses and counter and bus girls suffer from flat feet, varicose veins, swollen hands and feet, various disturbances of the sexual organs (falling womb, etc.), to say nothing of the many digestive disorders. More than half of all waitresses and counter and bus girls suffer from anemia.

Because of the extremely low wages they receive their occupation also depends upon their catering to the good will and wishes of the patrons for tips. They are humiliated and degraded by the waitresses and counter and bus girls, which is very common in the cafes. They are forced to work instead of living wage each week for their work instead of depending upon this system of tipping. Others, in order to make ends meet, must resort to other means, such as going to dance halls and even and are forced to stoop to prostitution. IS IT ANY WONDER THEY HAVE COME OUT ON STRIKE AND ARE THE MOST MILITANT OF ALL STRIKERS?

In every phase of strike activity the women strikers are in the forefront—singly or in groups on the picket lines, engaging in encounters with the bosses, thugs and the police, urging workers not to patronize strike cafeaters, in all ways militantly protecting the jobs and morals of the men workers. They are forced to work in the restaurants and cafeterias in order to eke out their miserable wages and to make ends meet.

May 29th

WOMEN OF THE UNION

YORK, Secretary

THE WORKING WOMAN

In Factory, Store, and Home
MILLIARY WORKERS OF LOCAL 43
FIGHT RIGHT WING UNION WRECKERS
By S. Croll
The Cloth Hist., Cap and Millinery Workers
International is holding its national conven-
tion in May. The leaders and machinists of the
union are working out plans which they believe
will be of real assistance to the sectional
struggle as well as of the American Federation of
Labor. Of the ten thousand women who are
employed in the millinery industry the union
never made any efforts to organize until the
right wing in the United States is in full control
of the most part young girls, driven to action by intolerable condi-
tions, took things into their own hands and organized
themselves into Local 43, was there any
organization of the millinery hand whose efforts were
quickly adopted by a hundred of 500 to 4,000
members. But once the local was on its feet and showed itself to be a militant body fighting
to maintain their organization for continuously bet-
ter working conditions, which meant naturally a
real not a pretended fight. They welcomed new
workers. The struggle has been one of solidarity with other workers as well as of
developing class consciousness on the part of the
membership, the International began to devise
ways and means for breaking up the lot. The
same holds true for the message of Intron, and
Local 25 of Chicago.

The answer of the whole membership of Local
45 to the vicious attack of President Zartisky and
his administration was a determined one in favor
of the Left wing leadership and policies of the
General Executive Board expelled the local from the
International. This was in absolute violation of
the International's constitution. For this reason the
local, 45 or other expelled members, and accepting
the reactionary policies of the Interna-
tional's leadership or destroying the local, the
two groups, are growing closer in consciousness on
the part of these workers and an even clearer under-
standing of the traitorous role being played by
the Zartisky machine is growing. It is from this
platform in connection with the convention and elec-
tion of delegates to delegate this group is not recog-
izing its expulsion by the GEB, and is appealing that action to the
national convention.

However, the membership of Local 45 has no
reason to consider the possibility of being reinstated.
This could clearly be seen from the nature of the
many speeches made by rank and file members of the
local at the general membership meeting held early in
April, when the policy of the delegates later to be
voted on by referendum was discussed. It is clearly
day that the Zartisky controlled convention
is not going to re-admit Local 43 or

“Efficiency” Plan Means Wage Cut
In our department where many girls work,
they could not get them for several
weeks, we have a new system of working put over
on us.

We were formerly getting $16 to $29 each
week for a 50-hour day. The bosses of the
Eagle Pencil Co. sent in their efficiency
expert to look this department over.

After many days of observation he decided
that the girls were inefficient for a two or three
and see how we hit it.

The result was as usual.

In our next pay we received as low as $3 for
a week. On that pay five of our girls quit.
They also reduced wages.

* * *

The girls in this department are
bad on their old way of working now, but those
seven girls are gone.

A GIRL WORKER.

the other expelled members as long as they de-
mands of Local 45, which the delegates are pledged
to fight against the following:

1. Disestablishment of Local 45 and all militant
workers.

2. Reorganization of the unorganized and
millinery workers.

3. For an eight-hour day.

4. For the Shop Delegate System.

5. For unity of all cap and millinery workers
with the needle trade unions.

The attempt of the Right wing to destroy the
union and the struggle against this has won the
unanimous support of Local 45's membership for
the sixth of its demands: "For unity of all cap and
millinery workers with the new Needle Trades
Union and Index. The Zartisky ma-
chine is making a few frantic last minute efforts,
before the convention, to intimidate Local 45 mem-
bers. It organized an attempted attack on the down-
town office of Local 45, beating and wounding
of several girls and having 18 of them arrested.

The Right wing Local 24 hoped to "win" the support
of workers of Local 45 they have only spec-
tulated in exploiting the women for the monetary
interests of the capitalists. The actions of Local 45
are teaching the millinery workers to hate Right
wingers and to fight them as allies of the bosses.

ROBOTS
Bang, clang, clang—just a bell calling one of
the automation out of the mill. As soon
as the bell started ringing across the room
up a flight of stairs—into another room over to
a desk—into a chair—pencil in hand—notebok ready—up in a moment of monotony voice—one, two,
three, letters—all alike—"That will do..." down the stairs—over to the typewriter—pound,
pound, pound.

And so it will go on, and on, and on, and on,
slowly, regularly, coldly, monotonously.

MOSES L. MILLER

To Zartisky and His Gang
From a Millinery Worker
We are wise to you Zartisky.
We know your policies are fake.
You tell us how much you are after
Is the money to take?
You say you want amalgamation.
That's a mask to hide the dirt.
You would lead us to destruction—
Toil the workers want to hurt.
Tell me, just how often
Have you shared the workers' fight?
Have they been turned
Into their beds at night?
No and no again—I'll say
We won't follow you, No-chaos!
Together we will fight with those
Who help the workers to resist.

A MEMBER OF LOCAL NO. 43

DAYS FINDS WOMEN IN THICK OF STUGGL.
By Rose Wolfe
May 1st, 1929, turns a new page
in the story of women workers of this city.
The terrific war raging in all parts of the
States and the United States—the in-

capitalization—where the women work
most exploited section of the working class
coming out in open revolt against the mon-
opoly development system introduced by the capi-
tality of this country in order to compete more effec-
tively with the European countries for world mar-
Kets.

For years the bureaucracy of the America
Federation of Labor, deaf to the cry of organiza-
tion of the unskilled workers, has maintained the
women workers are not responsive to labor
unionism. For years they have given more fire service to the
question of organizing women on the occa-
sions of their conventions. The attempts of the
progressives to organize the unorganized, particu-
larly the women workers, were met with expul-
sions and perquisitions. To show some pretense
in doing organization work among women, they have
occasionally appointed on their lobbying
committees as organizers, whose chief activities were
lobbying in the capitalist legislative houses.

The female Women's Trade Union League, the
organization which has served to have as the vehi-
cle for organizing the unorganized women, has
not even attempted to deal with the exploitation
of millions of women workers and is to-

day obsolete.

The mass revolt of women workers in the tex-
tile industry in the North as well as the South,
the call for better life in New Bedford, the present South
Carolina revolt; the militant struggles of 8
dressmakers, the millinery workers, the women
in the needle trades, the strike of the co-
ters workers, and the spontaneous unorgan;
ized revolts of women in almost every other trade
every section of the country, give the lie to
contention of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy. These
cannot find and support trade union organ-
izations.

The women workers of this country are
awakening and recognize that their salvation from industrial slavery lies only in or-

ganization, and when the striking and the trade union movement is making a real effort
to lead them in the struggle for better conditions.
In the textile and clothing industries, in the
new Industrial Union, in the struggles of the textile and mining industries, the women workers,
their unorganized activities, and the proof to
been the most militant and persistent
fighters. The new unions, organized on the
basis of class struggle and pledged to the organiza-

TILLIE

The coming Trade-Union-Unity Conference in
Cleveland will see many women workers, free
from the throttles, sitting side by side with the
men workers and deliberating on the present
problems confronting the entire working class,
with the men they will take their place in the
great struggle against exploitation, against
the impending imperialists war, against the
shop and speed-up systems and the treacherous
bureaucracy of the American Federation of Labor, which has become an adjunct to the capitalist
class.

On May 1st, 1929, all class-conscious women
will take heart in their past accomplishments and
will prepare themselves for greater things. When the hour comes when the United
States, just as the women workers of Russia, will
have gained real equality, real freedom
will the struggle under a government of that
world.
Women Mill Workers In South Revolt

W YORK—Thin, tired, hungry-looking, girls from the Lornay Mill of Gastonia, N. C., arrived in New York to tell their story before workers of the North.

Cecil Burger, a boy who looked hardly more than 18 years old, gave his age as 17. He is said to have eaten half a loaf of bread per meal. He said he had already worked in the mills more than two years as a doffer and now earns $13 a week, above the average, but sometimes works 72 hours in six days.

The North Carolina law against child labor under 14 is a joke, the strikers told the northern workers. "The boss wants the child to work. The child and the ma need his wages as quick as they can get it, to help the family. It's easy to swear the child is 14 when he's only 11 or 12. At least a third of the Lornay mill workers are children under 16 and many of them are under 14. There's been no union till the National Textile Workers' union came to enforce any law."

Dewey Martin, tall but pale and hollow-cheeked, spoke for the strikers in the low voice of a man who has no strength left after long hours of standing at the machines. He said he was 29 years old, but looked older. He has worked in the mills for six years, and now earns $21.95 a week for 60 hours. "But that is very high," he explained. "Most workers get half that much."

Iva Fullbright, one of the two women strikers who come North, told of working in the mills nearly 10 years to support three children. Her husband dead. She works more than 60 hours a week and earns $12.90. Her daughter, Bonnie, earns $12 a week on a speed-up piece rate. "Girls on the night shift work 11 hours," she stated. "And the mill owners are fighting against any law to stop night work or to make it shorter."

"The pay check doesn't all come to us," went on Iva Fullbright. "They take out $1.50 a week for the rest of a three-room company house. Then they take out 50 cents or more a week for lights, and $2.00 for coal. The coupon books we have to use are good only at the company store, and they take the money for those out of the check. Sometimes there isn't any money at all left in the pay envelope."

"Often we have no food in the house over Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The coupon books are sold on Tuesday. The card is often all used up by Saturday, and then we don't get much to eat for those three days. We eat mostly potatoes and cabbages, salt pork and grits."

Violet Jones, 18 years old, has already worked five years, 60 hours a week, as a creel warper in the mills. Her weekly wage of $9 is the highest paid in her department, she said. Many of the workers earn only $6, $7 or $8 a week. Violet is a relief worker since the strike began. Iva Fullbright told of the strikers' houses she has seen. "Most of the workers had no food at all. Sometimes three families were trying to live in a four-room company house. Children could not go to school, because they had no shoes or real clothes. They were going barefoot all winter.

"A mother, before or after her baby is born, is always put on piece work," explained the two women strikers. "Then if she has to lose time, the boss doesn't lose anything. It comes out of the mother's pay envelope." When told of the Russian Soviet Union and its care for mothers and babies, the two Southern workers could hardly believe that such a workers' government, aiming to care for the workers' health, already existed in the world.

A Typical Textile Workers' Family

"Down With Slavery!" Say Thou

CALL FOR THE TRAIL CONVENTION

Dear Comrades:
The National Committee of the Trade Union Educational League hereby calls for the election of delegates to constitute the TRADE UNION UNITY CONVENTION, to meet in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, at 10 a.m., on June 1st, 1929, and to conclude on June 2nd.

Capitalist rationalization, with its merciless ever-increasing speed-up system, is nothing but the last assault on American workers. The conditions tolerated for larger and larger masses of workers, especially in the highly mechanized industries. Increasing productivity, far from raising the living standards of the workers, is creating permanent mass unemployment, with further intensified speed-up of those remaining in the shops, with further wage-cuts and intensified exploitation generally. The capitalist class is intensifying its campaign of breaking down all effective working-class organizations in order to open up the shop policy. With smug forces, American capitalism is pouring forth its factories a tremendous volume of commodities beyond the limits of the domestic market, which is shrinking because of the decreasing purchasing power of the toiling masses, for making ever-greater profits. Capitalist rationalization is placing the worker at a forced pace to absorb the increased output, but there the limits of expansion are set by the barriers of rival capitalist powers and by the growing revolt of the subject peoples against the ruthless exploitation of the American imperialism.

The capitalist rationalization, marching or the bodies of the masses of American workers reaching out to the further subjugation of the world markets, comes to the limit of possible expansion. American capitalism has become incomparably entangled in the world capitalist crisis of capitalism, and is shrinking because of the decreasing purchasing power of the toiling masses, for making ever-greater profits. Capitalist rationalization is placing the worker at a forced pace to absorb the increased output, but there also the limits of expansion are set by the barriers of rival capitalist powers and by the growing revolt of the subject peoples against the ruthless exploitation of the American imperialism.

The American Federation of Labor has thus exposed its role as a social reformist, a social-imperialist organization, that is, as an agent within the working class for the capitalist class, to support the policies of capitalist rationalization and preparation for imperialist war. The I.L. with its ever-narrowing base of corruptibility and obsolete craft-fomes, is the enemy of the struggle of the workers. It is not to organize and lead the workers into battle, but instead to disorganize and demoralize especially masses of unskilled and semi-skilled and to cooperate with employers and capital parties and government through the so-called partisan policy in order to keep these workers in the continued subjection. The complete denial of democracy, the mass expulsions of workers, the open attack against the interest of needle workers, etc. are o
By Rose Pastor Stokes

Against the South was a sore spot in the textile industry. The low standard of living, the long hours, the low wages, and child labor were the factors that attracted the textile barons to move one-half of the textile industry to the South. The many militant struggles in recent years of the Northern textile workers were frequently influenced by this fact. It is well-known that women and girls constitute the biggest percentage of those employed in the textile industry. The present struggle of the ten thousand Southern textile strikers must concern the entire working class, and especially the working class women. In North and South Carolina ten thousand textile workers, the majority of whom are women, are now fighting for their right to live.

The greatest sufferers are the women. They carry the burden of homes and children in addition to labor in the mills. They are compelled to work night and day for less than ten dollars a week. They are forced to send their children to sweat in the mills at an age when they should be in school. They are set before sixty-four, seventy-two, and sometimes as high as ninety-six hours, and must operate them all.

The building of the National Textile Workers Union, and they jailed fifteen strikers. To break the strike. And yet the strikers stand firm. Women and men fight gallantly for a new militant union in the textile industry of this country.

In answer to the brutal attacks of the bosses, the Workers' International Relief has rushed aid to Gastonia. The Workers' International Relief will fight to the last ditch for the right to distribute relief to the Southern textile workers. "A NEW RELIEF STORE IN GASTONIA!" is the slogan of the W. I. R.

"Fellow women workers! The struggle of the Southern textile strikers is YOUR struggle. They win in the South, it will be easier for you to maintain the slightly higher wage that you have achieved through many years of bitter struggle. They are FIGHTING YOUR FIGHT AND THE FIGHT OF THE ENTIRE WORKING CLASS."

They plead for relief—these thousands upon thousands of Southern textile workers. The children are hungry and they are facing starvation.

**This Strike Is Your Strike**

As working class women we must do our share! To the rescue of the textile strikers of Gastonia! Stand by the strikers in their struggle for a real fighting union—Help give them bread! Go to the headquarters of your Workers' International Relief—become an active worker—You can help to spread the story of this heroic struggle. You can get every worker, man or woman to help feed the strikers and their children. The working class women should know about this strike.

Don't Delay—Act! ! !

**COLLECT MONEY EVERYWHERE**—at picnics, outings, affairs, tag days, meetings, house-to-house, neighbors!

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**All That Was Left When Masked Thugs Demolished Union Office**

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**UNION UNITY**

**CLEVELAND, JUNE 1-2**

samples of the A. F. of L. role in the present period. The coming convention will take all necessary measures to mobilize the left wing in the old unions for energetic struggle against the bureaucracy and to win the membership for policies of militant class struggle.

The masses of unorganized workers, in America as in all other capitalist countries, under the pressure of speed-up and wage-cuts, are seething with discontent. Already this is breaking out in outbreaks of small, spontaneous, unorganized movements, fighting against the speed-up, against age-cuts, for a shorter working day, and other demands. Experience has proven once and again that any attempt to lead these masses into the unions of the A. F. of L, under the rule of the corrupt bureaucracy, will result in dissipating these movements and preventing any effective organization.

Experiences of Passaic, where a great union of 10,000 members was deliberately destroyed by the A. F. of L, and the criminal activities of the bureaucrats which destroyed the great textile union are typical. These workers in the unorganized industries must have their own independent Trade Union organizations, controlled by the masses, which can be made permanent instruments of struggle. In all capitalist countries such developments are taking place, being especially acute in America, where the situation requires the formation of new unions, based on the class struggle, in open warfare with the Greens and Walls of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy. Already these new unions (Milling, Textile and Needle Workers) have been born in the struggle of the unorganized masses and the left wing in the old unions against the combined forces of the bureaucrats, employers and state power. These new unions, in their short period of existence, have already demonstrated that they are the instruments of struggle of the unorganized workers and are capable of fighting for the interests of the workers. These unions have developed out of the long struggles by the U. S. C. L. against the corrupt A. F. of L. leadership and against the employers. They indicate the path which the revolutionary trade union movement will have to follow in the organization of the unorganized workers. The organization of these three unions is connected up with the general struggle on an international scale of the unorganized workers against the treacherous social-reformist and reactionary trade-union leaders and imperialism. On the order of the day stands a great campaign for the ORGANIZATION OF THE UNORGANIZED INTO NEW AND MIGHTY UNIONS.

Such a campaign, concentrating especially on the key industries, also requires special attention to the great numbers of women and youth workers, who are subject to exceptional exploitation, and who have always been neglected and despised by the A. F. of L. officials. Special attention must be given to steel, oil, and mining.

(Continued on page 6)
WOMEN NEEDLE TRADES WORK AMONG THE MOST MIGHTY FIGHTERS

By Rose Works

The Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, organized three months ago after many years of bitter struggle against the treachery of the reform-minded officials of the American Federation of Labor, has come to the forefront and fought its first successful battle in the dress trade, which employed a large number of women workers.

Just as in 1909 when the waist and dress makers, the vast majority of whom were women, went on strike and gave the whole world a signal for the revolt of the workers against the sweatshop system in the other branches of the needle trades, resulting in the birth of the old Needle Trades Union, in 1929 the dressmakers were again the pioneers to blaze the path for the new Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. Just as in 1909 the new union fought its first battle in the dress trade, the stronghold of women workers, so did the new union in 1929 choose as its first battle ground the section of the industry which employs the largest portion of women workers.

The dressmakers were confronted with a great strike. Out of the problems of the crafts strike, the battle depended on a very large extent the future of the new union. The bosses and the company union recognized the impotence of the workers in their first open struggle. The reformists of the new union and they left no stone unturned in their vain attempt to break the strike. But just as in 1909, the dressmakers stood their ground.

At the call of the new union, ten thousand workers—Jews, Italians, Americans, white and Negro—marched to the strike and marched in solid ranks to the halls. Those who had doubted stood in awe at the sight of these marching ranks. The fights of the bosses were disheartened and could no longer snare and ridicule the idea of a general strike in the dress trade. It was a living illustration of the days when half a million will be swelled by additional thousands, and when the sweat-shop system, maintained by the pay roll companies, will be wiped out and union conditions once more established in the trade.

It was not an easy job to carry through the strike of the dressmakers. The task that existed in the trade throughout the two years of the vicious attack on the Union by the uncholy alliance of the bosses, the old officialed, the gangsters, the police, and the courts, had had its demoralizing effect on the minds of the workers. The new union was in advance in its fight and mobilized all its forces. Schlesinger, the chief of the company union, openly invited and secured the world for some months all the drippings of the bosses. The Central Trades and Labor Council, which Trade Union Unity on a national and industrial scale, as well as locally, created another series of problems. The Congress must formulate policies to this end, based upon the creation of ONE COMMON TRADE UNION CENTER FOR ALL CLASS STRUGGLE ORGANIZATIONS, which shall unit all new unions, revolutionary minorities in the old unions, and all movements for organizing the unorganized, shop committees, etc., under a single direction. It must work out the constructive form of the movement for the UNITED FRONT FROM BELOW, among the workers in the shops, for joint struggles for union aims on the basis of industrial unions and shop committees.

All economic organizations of workers, standing on the basis of struggle, and agreeing with the objects of this call, are invited to elect delegates to the TRADE UNION UNITY CONVENTION.

ELECT YOUR DELEGATE! Agitate for the Unity Convention!

First fight against wage-cuts against the speed-up and rationalization of the work.

Fight against the social-imperialist A. F. of L. bureaucracy.

Fight for social insurance, against unemployment, disability and old age.

Organize the unorganized into new unions.

Build the International Trade Union Unity!
No "Gastonia" Here! Woman Textile Worker

Letters from the Working Women Correspondent Kustova to the Comrades Ahead

Dear Comrades:

I should like to relate to you briefly how the women workers in our factories live and work.

In the two buildings of our factory the spinning mill and the weaving mill, 9,000 working men and women are engaged; of these 70 per cent are women. The seven-hour day was introduced in our factory in April, 1928, and we work three shifts, so that we have night shift every third week.

All expectant and nursing mothers are exempt from night shift for nine months; they are allotted day shift, within whose wages working conditions being a iota worsened. For two months before and two months after confinement the woman worker is freed from all work in the factory, and receives during this time benefit from the insurance fund to the amount of her wages. Besides this, the mother receives from the insurance fund nursing benefit to the amount of 25 rubles monthly. The insurance fund also pays a lump sum on the birth of the child, a premium for the infant’s "outfit," to the amount of 25 rubles, or furnishes a layette of the same value. Should the child die, the mother receives 37 rubles for funeral expenses.

The women’s department and the factory council have organized nurseries for children beneath three years of age. For the older children of kindergarten age, care is provided, where the children are cared for free of charge, fed, provided with clean and hygienic surroundings. Their health is looked after with the utmost care under medical supervision, and they are permitted to remain as long as the mother is working in the factory. In our factory the women’s department is submitting to the factory management a suggestion that the children may remain in the kindergarten whilst the others are attending meetings at which they are engaged in some other social work after factory work.

The women workers receive the same wages as the men, in proportion to their qualifications or to the work done. For instance, a weaver (man or woman alike) earns on average an additional wage in a month, that is, in 25 days, 50 to 60 rubles, or sometimes 70 to 80 rubles. A good work in the rigid machine earns 70 to 80 rubles, a woman worker at the water machine 55 to 60 rubles.

Women who are nursing their infants can leave the factory half an hour earlier for nine months without loss of pay.

These are the material advantages which our factory has introduced for raising the living for the working women, and which we may count among the achievements of the Red October. Now we shall pass to the social and political life of the women. You will be already aware that the women textile workers are people somewhat backward in education, especially among the older women. It has therefore been comprehended that only a part of the women textile workers of our factory are educated, and can read and write. But, thanks to the persevering work of our organizations, the women’s department, the factory council, the Young Communists and Communist Party nuclei, we succeed better year in year in inducing the women workers to take part in the elections, in the management of the factory, and in the social organizations.

This is not easy, for our conditions of life—cooking, "women affairs”—have us still much too fast in their grasp—and there are still many among us who think their housework and their household matters more important. During the eleven years of the existence of the Soviet power, however, many of the women in our factory have developed into the most active, most class-conscious, and best of our workers, taking leading places in the workshops (the younger technical personnel in the factories), as members of the town and village Soviets, as leaders in the co-operatives, as presidents in the commissions for the protection of labor, and in many other important positions. The present secretary of our factory council is a weaver, our woman comrade Koemenkina. The director of the factory comrade Vengerova, the chairman of the commission for the protection of labor in our factory is the weaver comrade Petchinkhova, the chairman of the revision commission of the co-operative conrade Akimzeva. Four women comrades take part in the management of the co-operatives themselves. Ten women comradettes are working in various sections of the town Soviets and district executive committees, and it is impossible to enumerate all the other women actively working, for there is no work in our factory, and no leading organization, in which women do not take part.

Finish Women Textile Workers on Strike

HELSINGFORS, Finland—For 28 weeks through the spring, summer and early autumn of 1928, 1,000 Finish women textile strikers stood out in a heroic struggle for a wage increase. Reformist trade union officials, Fascist strike-breaker bands, and capitalist mill owners could not break the strike.

At last in October, 1928, a partial victory was won by these heroic women. The hourly wage was increased by the Government order fixed by-tariff. Managers were obliged by the strike settlement to reinstate strikers first of all, to dismiss all the scabs, and to grant the workers certain holidays.

A reformist union secretary who tried to sell out the workers was obliged to resign from his position.
Women Workers Write of Conditions in Their Shops

Sweater Slave Speaks

The conditions in my shop are terrible. The bosses are very cruel to the workers. We are not allowed to speak to each other. The workers are always being watched, always repeating the same thing: Work! Work! Work! Work!

It does not make any difference how much work we turn out. The boss gives us more work every day. The speed-up is terrific.

The wages are low and there is no promise of better wages.

When it gets busy, the boss tries to fool the workers by saying that there will be a raise in the future. But this is just a ploy to keep us from going on strike. We are not organized.

The bosses take advantage of the workers and try to prevent the workers from organizing to protect the workers.

Workers, it is time to wake up. We have a Union that is working hard to protect the workers from the exploitation of the bosses.

Food Strikers Fight To the Editor Working Woman:

I would like to tell you of some of my experiences in connection with the strike of the cafe workers now going on in New York City.

We have been on strike for several weeks, and each day more and more workers join our strike and each day we put more fear into the hearts of the bosses.

At the Marvin Cafeteria on 28th St., where we have been picketing since the beginning of the strike, the bosses are very nervous and anxious. We keep them guessing every day and they never know what to do next.

On the first day as we were picketing walking up and down with our strike signs on, the boss hired several detective agents and thugs to watch us and make sure we would keep away from the strike signs on. It was the second day instead of the one policeman that was usually around there we found four cops and one sergeant. By the middle of the week the bosses got a "platoon" to carry a sign up and down. On this sign was written: "We are not on strike" and "Our help is satisfied with our wages and conditions." We have a stronger union in the Knitgoods and Textile Industries.

A SWEATER WORKER.

A Real Leadership

I am a chairlady in a millinery shop. I have been working in this place over a year. A right-wing union official sent me up there. Prices were paid a little on account until the prices would be settled. Then we went on strike, but nothing but the account in our hands. Work was never divided. I have not. The men did not even know what kind of vision of work meant.

I went down to John Glick, then organizer of Local 43, Oppenheim, and asked her what kind of a union shop this was. This was what she answered, "I am sorry I can't do anything in that shop. It is too difficult to get along with these men. Even Specter is afraid of them and there is a very bad set of girls there. They never pay their dues."

The struggle began between the girls and the management. I met the managers and the girls. I was impressed with the courage and determination of the women. I knew that the workers were determined to win, and I was discouraged and wanted to resign from my post as chairlady, but in the end I decided to organize and to give the workers the support they needed.

Now they have the injunction against which they have to fight. That the struggle continues. I believe in the power of the workers and I believe in the power of the union. I believe in the power of the workers and I believe in the power of the union.

A CHAIRLADY.