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Price 10¢ per Copy
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What a Woman Suffers as a Land Settler

The Woman Worker:—

Our sisters in the Old Land seem to have taken a keen interest in the new Canadian Land Settlement Scheme. The British Joint Committee of Industrial Women Workers Organizations (representing over a million working women) at a meeting held February 11th, dealt with the proposed scheme. In brief, the scheme proposes to bring some 2,000 families to Canada for the farms, and the government assistance will include a portion of the travelling expenses and a portion of the household goods. Those who come will be required to have a minimum of $125.00. The recommendation of the British Women’s Committee is “That only families with $500.00 to $1,000.00 are likely to succeed without real hardship”.

But what is the life of the housewife who comes to Canada to live on a farm? She is usually a mother, she has to look after her children, start her dairy, her vegetable garden and care for the poultry. Her husband must learn to make good on the land himself, and for this he must work on the other farms, and the usual rate of wage for this is from $25.00 to $30.00 per month, with food. From this they are expected to keep their families.

When her husband has received his training he may get equipment, buildings and live stock amounting to $5,000.00. This is a debt to the Canadian or British Governments. The new Canadian farmers, the man and his wife, must start to pay back this debt to the Government after the first season at the rate of about $30.00 per month.

Now, we in Canada know very well that this cannot be done. Even if provision is made by the Government to forego principal payments, the interest must be paid. The debt is never ended.

It is as well that the British women made a thorough investigation, and so were able to advise that the money spent to bring people to Canada could be used to better advantage by spending it to assist the workers on the land in Great Britain. For after all it is useless producing marketable commodities if there is not a market for the distribution of the same. Some farmers in Canada may want help, but there are farmers enough, and there are deserted farms everywhere.

Yours for the Co-operative Commonwealth,

A. CAMWELL, London, Ont.

How a Woman Worker Fared When She Stuck Out for the Rights of Women Workers

The Woman Worker:—

It may interest you to know that I have had five jobs in about just as many months. Obtaining laundry work and staying at the work is no cinch. I lasted three days in the first,
being dismissed because I attacked the doctors who examined women and girls who needed relief, laundry work in this case being a form of relief. The second job lasted three weeks. The third job two days. My fourth was in an up-to-date laundry. Here I discovered that the minimum wage was not being paid and immediately registered a complaint with the Minimum Wage Board. It is true that the firm eventually came across with the money, but it was discovered that I was the one who complained and I was fired for being an agitator. I'm now in my fifth job, and I'm wondering how long I'll last.

Wishing the Woman Worker success,

Yours,

E.C. (The Peg)

The Problem of the Unmarried Woman

May 6, 1926

Dear Mrs. Custance:—

I read your letter in the paper in regard to the poor woman who had to commit suicide. Believe me, there are far too many of them. But can you blame them? I do not. I wonder if we could not do something for single women, who, like myself, have worked all their days and tried to save, yet still cannot manage to get a little home for themselves in their old age.

I think the government ought to give a pension at 45 to those who have not saved enough, through no fault of their own. I wonder if Miss McPhail would take the matter up. I am hard of hearing and this hinders me in doing much in that way.

At present I am doing the housework for a married brother and his wife and can get along, but I dread the time that will soon be here when I am past work. But, believe me, I am not thinking only of myself, but of these other poor women, some we never hear of. And so many more coming from the Old Country. I think this is a problem that will have to be met.

I think the wealthy people and all these I.O.D.E.-ers ought to help and build some cottages in the country towns for single women, rent free, and let them have a garden and a home of their own if they so wish. We hear so much of mothers and grandmothers, but never about the aunts who, in many cases have a much harder and bitter time.

I think if there was a club for single women where we could get acquainted it would help. What object has the Labor League in view? Have you a Club, and have you any reading matter?

Sincerely yours,

S.J.M., Toronto
The I.O.D.E. are mentioned in our first issue on three occasions. In a letter from one of our correspondents it is intimated that the members of this organization could undertake more useful work than they are doing at the present time. In Miss McPhail's article, in which she denounces the picture patriotism of these ladies, and, lastly, in editorial comment, which deals with the discussions of these ladies in convention and which show that their patriotism ran riot. We cannot help feeling that if an anti-strike movement develops in Canada the I.O.D.E. will be the founders.

Our sister organ the Labour Woman, of Great Britain, warns the Miners' wives of the anti-strike movement. The April issue contains the following announcement:

MINERS' WIVES! BEWARE!

There is a specious organization. The Women's Guild of the Empire and Commonsense (save the mark!) going round the coalfields asking you to demonstrate against strikes and lockouts.

It offers trips to London for a demonstration.

Be cautious! Give it the cold shoulder!

Inquire where this organization gets its funds.

Keep solidly by the Trade Union of your menfolk, and Remember you are Workers, not Black-legs!

This contains the sentiment endorsed by the Women's Labor League Movement of Canada.

When Dr. Withrow lectured to the Toronto Women's Labor League on "Birth Control," many women, quite new to the League, attended the meeting, and it must be said some men were present also.

Dr. Withrow made some very frank statements about Birth Control. He said, among other things, that when he went to church to attend a wedding he did not see "two souls" being united, but instead "two bodies," and his thought always was, "Were those two bodies fit and prepared for the perpetuation of life." He contended that Birth Control knowledge was not sufficient in itself, and might even be harmful unless it were accompanied with sex knowledge. He wanted it understood that Birth Control and abortion were two entirely different things: Birth Control was the prevention of conception, while abortion was destruction of life after conception.

Dr. Withrow claimed that every woman should have the right to determine when she should have children. He scorned the quack remedies and old-fashioned ideas concerning childbearing.

The discussion which followed was interesting. Some denounced the fact that mothers and fathers were under the influence of "mock modesty," and preferred to let their
children know about life and their entrance into the world from any channel and by any means other than talk properly themselves to their children. Others claimed that sex hygiene should be taught in the schools, and that this could be done by means of properly arranged courses in Nature Study. Others denounced the influence of the church in preventing a proper understanding of life. Others dealt with the need of Birth Control as a relief for working women and working class families, as in these days, it was impossible to raise a family decently if it exceeded more than three children. Evidently, the audience quite approved the Birth Control Movement, as Dr. Withrow did not meet with any objections.

It was noticeable, too, that after the meeting several women who were mothers, and young mothers at that, asked Dr. Withrow for his card.

The letter from S.J.M., Toronto, voices a great need at this time. Today there are a few millions of women who are unmarried and have no chance of marrying, they are doomed to self-maintenance for the rest of their lives. But the unmarried state of a woman is by no means a disgrace. Many lovable and good women are unmarried. Many women enter the professions because they prefer to work for themselves and prefer independence rather than be tied to the drudgery of domestic life and raising children amid all the uncertainty of life as it is today.

But there are times when loneliness and a feeling of isolation overtake some women, when, if they have only received a small wage for their labors and have not been able to save for the rainy day of failing health, that they fear the future.

It must be evident that pressure of the times should bring women together in organization for protection. Surely, the best form is that which will aid them in obtaining economic security. We claim that the Labor Movement is the best place for women who depend upon their own labors for their existence, and the Women’s Labor League Movement in particular is the place for these who want help in obtaining this security.

This brings us to the point where we can discuss the great insult that has been thrown at aged workers by the House of Government Pensioners and Senile Decay, the House of Senate.

For years the labor movement of Canada has labored for “Old Age Pensions.” Every local union, every part of the workers’ political movement has petitioned and petitioned for Old Age Pensions. At last an Old Age Pension Bill managed to get through the House of Commons but only to be blocked by the House of Senate. Of course we know why the Senate blocked it and who were behind their action. The rich are determined they will not part with their wealth for the workers’ benefit.

It is clear the workers of Canada will have to bring pressure to bear to
get rid of the Senate. It would be as well, too, that they demand that the pensions paid by the government to the Senate Pensioners should be stopped and that all should go into a common fund and be shared by all the aged. But this is a great concession to these pensioners of the Senate. The aged workers who have been denied pensions are the ones who deserve them in recognition of their former usefulness as producers of social needs, whereas, the Senators cannot lay claim to reward by virtue of hard work and incessant toil.

But here, in Canada, like every other capitalist country, where profits are counted the first consideration, the Dollar Mind blocks the welfare of lives.

Only in one country does this appear to be different. According to the report of the British Trade Union Delegation to Land of the Soviets (Soviet Russia) things are quite different. Here, the children and the aged, those who will be the useful producers and those who have fulfilled that function and have become worn in the process, receive every possible consideration. And this consideration is not on the basis of charity, but entirely on basis of a social duty on the part of those who are able to work.

Old age and infirmity are protected in the land where the workers and peasants are the rulers. There are rest homes, permanent and otherwise, for all the aged workers. They have not to worry about payments, they can do just what they like in the way of passing their time. The workers have experienced, while they are under the rule of the rich, the bitterness of the "beggarly charity." This makes them considerate for the feelings of their fellows. This proves that a Workers' Government can bring happiness to the aged.

Peaceful Picketing has just been declared unlawful by the Supreme Court of Canada. This means that when the workers go out on strike against a reduction of wage or any form of industrial oppression inflicted by the employers, they will not be allowed to go near, or confer with, or communicate to other workers that there is a strike in a certain factory, workshop, mill, or mine.

It is clear to all who know what conditions are like to-day, that this decision was brought in in the interests of the employers. Just now the employers want to cut the wages of the workers all along the line. This will aid the masters better than anything else. But the workers will have to make a stand for their rights.
MILITARIZING THE SCHOOL CHILDREN
Agnes McPhail, M.P.

John Stuart Mill has said, "All attempts by the State to bias the conclusions of its subjects on disputed points are evil."

I believe the State, through the influence of the military authorities on the education of our several provinces, is seeking to bias the conclusions of children in regard to the best method of settling international disputes.

The walls of our schools are lined with pictures of military men in gold braid and with pictures of battles. It was bad enough years ago, but is much worse now, that the pictures donated by the I.O.D.E., and framed by the Provincial Government, at the expense of the people of Ontario, have been hung in the schools. The children naturally get the idea that only soldiers are heroes and worthy of admiration.

The School Readers emphasize war heroes and link together the soldier, war and glory.

This business of moulding the child to believe war is glorious and to be admired, begins in the Primer. We find a pictured flag—our flag—and these words:

- It is the Union Jack.
- The flag is red, white and blue.
- The red says "Be Brave!"
- The white says "Be Pure!"
- The blue says "Be True!"
- Our soldiers fought for this flag
- In the Great War

The child gets the idea that the flag is something to be fought for, and that bravery, purity and truth are somehow connected with the fighting, and so on, up through the Readers the work goes on:

- In the Third Reader, we find—
  "Come, cheer up, my lads, 'tis to glory we steer,
  To add something more to this wonderful year,
  To honor we call you, not press you like slaves,
  For who are so free as the sons of the waves?
- We always are ready,
- Hearts of oak are our ships, hearts of oak are our men,
- Steady, boys, steady,
- We'll fight and we'll conquer again and again."

Of all Burns' poems, breathing understanding of and love for the common people, not one has been given a place in the Ontario Readers, only his military poem, "Scots Wha Hae" was thought worthy of a place.

Near the end of the Fourth Reader we find England, my England:
- Mother of Ships whose might, England, my England,
- Is the fierce old Sea's delight, England, my own,
- Chosen daughter of the Lord, Spouse-in-Chief of the ancient Sword,
- There’s the menace of the Word
- In the Song on your Bugles blown, England—
- Out of heaven on your bugles blown!
Probably this is the worst of all war poems.

In our histories, war is given the chief place. Our virtues are stressed and our shortcoming minimized, while our enemies' faults lose nothing in the telling and their virtues are quite carefully concealed.

The progress of the race toward a higher plane and the contribution of each nation, is given little space. History, to the child, means war—righteous, if we started it, and particularly if we win. The good people fought on our side, the bad ones on the other side.

Then, just in case the war psychology was not yet strong enough, the Department of National Defence invaded the schools. At twelve years of age boys can be formed into Cadet corps. The instructor, usually the principal or teacher in the school—receives $2.00 (Two dollars) per head for each Cadet up to fifty, and $1.00 (One dollar) for each one over that number.

The charm of music, color, pomp and class distinction is thrown around Cadet training to lure boys into the military machine. As Rev. M.E. Cameron, of Hamilton, has very truly said, “Military training teaches boys to be obedient to brass buttons and tin hats, but not to the great ideals of the country.”

The best authorities agree that cadet training is not good physical training. But it captures the boy's mind. Our militarist knows that all our talks about settling international dispute by means other than war, will fall upon deaf ears if only he can instill war psychology into the minds of our youth.

The number of cadets in Canada has increased from 74,991, in 1920, to 115,677, in 1925, during the period of the last five years.

Where are you mothers? This is your great task. How soon can we say to the Department of National Defence, “Take your hands off the educational system,” and to the compilers of Readers and Histories, “Give the child a true picture of war—its waste, cost, uselessness and true relationship to national and international life”?

How soon will you see that our school walls are decorated with pictures showing the scenic beauty of Canada and other countries; of children at play; of flowers and animals; children of other lands in national dress; of workers producing goods for our use? I hope very soon.

HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE MINING TOWNS OF CAPE BRETON, NOVA SCOTIA

By Annie Whitfield.

The women of Canada should know just how the workers in the mining towns in Cape Breton live, and I think our magazine can help to impart this knowledge.

First of all it must be told that the houses in Cape Breton are owned by the British Empire Steel Corporation (called Besco for short), and it was these same houses that the Royal Commission advised the people to buy from Besco. But the
reason they advised this was because the houses are so old and broken down that it would cost as much to repair them as it would to build new ones.

It is as well that it should be told that right in the midst of Besco's shacks, the homes of the miners, are the Public and Catholic Schools, the Globe House, doctors' houses and the homes of Besco's officials, which we all know have flush closets, bath rooms, proper drainage, and, of course, must be connected with the main sewerage pipe.

But, oh, the condition of the miners' homes is very different! The miners are only workers and they must be contented with dry toilets, open drains, and as for bath rooms, these are an unknown luxury. The water from the sinks must either stand in pools in the yard or it is drained from the yard into the street and there it stands the year round. It would do your eyesight good to walk around here now and see the drains full of a whole year's refuse, covered with a horrid green slime, which makes such a good breeding place for the germs of any and every kind of disease.

Three years ago we had an epidemic of typhoid and I did not know of one case other than those who were the tenants of Besco. Our health officer and doctors went about twenty miles into the country to find the origin of the germs, but the open drains and the toilets were never blamed.

Two years ago the town thought seriously of having a milk pasteuriz-
have to take a hand in making things better in this shack-town of Besco's. Our children are the flowers of life. Tend them carefully. Do not let them become the victims of master class greed before it is compulsory. Keep them at school until they are 16. If you need more finance for household maintenance support your husband’s stand for higher wages.

EDITORIALS

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FLORENCE CUSTANCE Toronto 6, Canada

WORKING WOMEN AND THE ANTI-STRIKE MOVEMENT

DURING the first week of the month of May the eyes of the world were fixed on Great Britain. A great struggle was on. First came the Miners’ strike, a struggle between coal owners and coal miners; the former determined to maintain their profits at all costs, and the latter just as determined that their already low standard of life should not be further lowered nor their hours of labor lengthened.

Within a few hours of the miners’ strike both sections of workers laid down their tools, and a general strike had developed. This brought the government of Great Britain into action, and, as we know now, this action was in the interests of the class of owners.

One of the features of the strike was the part played by the women of the aristocracy and the owners in breaking the strike. Besides frying sausages, ham and eggs, in the canteens in Hyde Park, running motors and the like, some of them had been busy ere the strike began.

A few weeks prior to the strike these women initiated what was known as the Strike against Strikes. This took the form of a big demonstration in London, in which some thirty thousand women took part, about ninety per cent. being working women.

It is reported that Mrs. Flora Drummond is at this time the foremost active spirit in forming permanent anti-strike committees, composed of the wives of workers. It is as well to recall the fact that Mrs. Drummond was once a prominent figure in the militant wing of the Women’s Suffrage Movement, vieing with Mrs. Pankhurst for leadership. Also, that this movement had adopted as its motto “Any means to our end”; and fulfilling that motto in deeds, its members did not hesitate to smash windows in the fashionable parts of Old London, obstruct the police on duty, and even molest the King. This was for “Votes for Women”.

Time only will show to what extent the anti-strike movement has been successful. Only very ignorant and slavish working women will join it. Working women who know what the contents of the wage envelope mean to them will stick courageously by the side of their menfolk, those who slave in the dirt, the grime and the darkness of the mine for wages.

Strikes do not happen because the workers like periods of idleness. Strikes often bring severe hardship to the workers while they are pending. But resistance against those whose greed for profits makes them grind the workers down to depths of poverty, degradation and joyless lives, is absolutely necessary.

The anti-strike movement in Great Britain may be an example which others will copy. If the movement spreads to Canada, as other movements have, then the women in the labor movement will have to combat it. On no account must the homes of workers be divided when our men are forced into a struggle against the greed for profits.

Strikes are disagreeable—they cause suffering. But the strike evil is only a result of another and greater evil, this is, that production of the things people need is carried on for the sake of profits. The only way by which strikes will be ended will be in an alteration of the motive of producing life's necessities. Production must be for use, and all must take part in production. There must be no room for idlers who live by preying off the workers.

The task of working women is not to break strikes for the benefit of the owners and the rich. Their task is to join shoulder to shoulder with their men, to make strikes successful. This will help the process of ending the profit system, which benefits only a few. Into the Labor Movement for this end.

THE IMPERIAL ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE DISCUSS WEIGHTY PROBLEMS

The National Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire are, at the moment of writing, in session in St. Johns, N.B. Among the weighty problems under their consideration are: Immigration, Combatting Communist Propaganda, especially in the schools, the Support of Militia and Defense, and the Publication of a Text Book explaining the significance and use of the Union Jack.

A truly patriotic agenda, and no doubt one which gives joy to the heart of the militarist! But the Golden Rule, so often preached by our patriotic women, is never applied by themselves. They take it for granted they have special rights, and raise great objection when they discover that there are others who consider they have rights also.

We need only to take, as an example, the fact that in the schools there hang pictures which depict war. These show the wholesale slaughter of hu-
man beings and soldier heroes. These pictures are the gift of the I.O.D.E. to the schools. Was this gift without motive or purpose? Quite to the contrary. The motive is propaganda. These pictures are intended to instil in the minds of our children, the children of the workers, that war is glorious, to die in battle is heroic, to kill in battle is a duty, even if those who kill each other haven't the faintest idea "what 'twas all about". The propaganda of the imperialist war lovers is dominating at this time the minds of the children of the workers.

We have not been able to discover if the communists have been successful in getting their kind of pictures into the schools. But we have an idea that the kind of pictures they would place in the schools would be vastly different. One of their pictures would show how the workers toil in field, factory, mill and mine. By the side of that picture would be one showing the kind of people who fatten at the expense of those toilers, the kind of homes they live in, and the luxuries with which they are surrounded. Another would show the children of the workers playing amid the dangers of the street, while those of the leisure class play in spacious grounds with amusements of every kind. Another would show how simple, trusting people, who want but the right to live decent lives, are enticed into spending their few hard-earned savings on steamship passages in order to emigrate to a foreign country. Another would show how the militia is used to shoot down workers when they ask for a living wage. Another would depict the spirit and the bond of international brotherhood, symbolized in the Red Flag.

But are these pictures in the schools? We have yet to hear that they are. Why are the I.O.D.E. complaining? It can be said quite truly that the teachers are teaching only those things that please the I.O.D.E. The school syllabus makes no provision for communist theories.

However, it may be, that the I.O.D.E. have at last realized that the whole environment surrounding the lives of the workers is a living picture, and they are fearing they cannot cope with the workers' interpretation of that living picture. But this thought can be left with our patriotic women: That if big differences did not exist between people, that if there were not poor and rich, if poverty and luxury did not exist side by side, then there would not exist a force which seeks to bring about happiness for human beings, which is possible, but which does not at this time prevail.

LABOR LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

HAMILTON

The Hamilton League reports that they are collecting for the British Miners. The League is a unit of the Hamilton Central Council of the C.L.P. and takes part in the political activity of Hamilton.
REGINA

The Regina League has waged a fight against "Intimidation tactics of employers" and "Conditions under which girls have to work." At a public meeting called by the Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Board to fix wages for women and girls operating in Beauty Parlors, the League, through Mrs. Hanway, told the Board it was difficult to get girls and women working in the Regina stores and shops to organize because they were afraid of losing their jobs.

Dealing with store and shops generally, Mrs. Hanway charged that in Regina sanitary conditions were not what they ought to be. In at least one place men and women were obliged to use the same toilet accommodation. When Mrs. Hanway wanted the Board to recommend the girls to organize themselves, the chairman said, "It was up to the girls themselves." Mrs. Hanway further stated that one of the girls at the meeting had said to her, "We dare not take a stand for organization, we would lose our jobs." Another had said, "If my boss knew that I was here tonight I would get the door tomorrow."

The Regina League, with the Regina Trades and Labor Council, presented and requested the Board to consider the following:

a. Return to the 48 hour week.
b. Return to the former minimum wage scale. This has been reduced from $15.00 to $14.00 for experienced workers.
c. Pay for overtime when the maximum hours had been exceeded.
d. That a maximum number of hours in any one day be set. Eleven hours was suggested.
e. That female employees in beauty parlors, professional offices and stenographers should be brought under the provisions of the Minimum Wage Act.

TORONTO

Among the activities reported by the Toronto League was the attempt to organize the domestic workers. At a social gathering a number of these working women came and talked with members of the League. They claimed they were willing to organize, but what was the good when the greater number of domestic workers did not bother, when so many were continually moving about, and when so many married women came to the Bureau and offered to work for next to nothing. For the moment the League will have to content itself with holding more conferences with these women workers and learn how to get them together.

The League also issued a public protest against the treatment of Ellen Kenealey, the woman who took her life because she could not find work.

At the recent convention of the Ontario Section of the C.L.P. (Canadian Labor Party) four resolutions submitted by the League were adopted. These dealt with, (a) Combatting the School Cadet System, (b) Urging the Quebec Minimum Wage Board to get to work to fix the minimum wage rates for the women workers in Quebec,
(c) Extension of the Mothers' Allowance to the mother with one child, (d) Support the Birth Control Movement.

It also organized a meeting at which Birth Control was discussed by Dr. Withrow, the President of the Ontario Birth Control League. This is reported elsewhere.

The League has decided to hold a bazaar in the early Fall in aid of the Woman Worker and general organizational work.

TORONTO (Jewish Women's League)

The Jewish Women's Labor League is conducting a summer camp for their children. The camp will be open for two months. Because their first attempt last year met with great success their plans for the camp this year are much more extensive.

NEW ABERDEEN, N.S.

The New Aberdeen League reports that for the moment they are engaged in work for the defense of the seven Nova Scotia miners who were sent to Dorchester Penitentiary for two and three years, imprisoned for taking part in the "food raids".

THE FEDERATION HAS ADDED ANOTHER UNIT. THE MONTREAL WOMEN'S LABOR LEAGUE HAS JOINED. WHO WILL BE THE NEXT?

TRADE UNION NOTES

Girls Benefit by Belonging to the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union

Girls working in the Boot and Shoe industry in Toronto are beginning to realize the benefits of organization. During the recent organizational campaign the membership increased 100 per cent. This increase brought increase of wages with it. Formerly, the minimum wage rate for skilled stitchers was $16.00-$18.00 per week; now it is $20.00.

A new worker starts right away at a minimum of $12.00.

The girls who are organized in the Fur Workers' Union are just as favorably situated. The average wage for an organized skilled fur worker is $22.00-$24.00 per week.

Compare these rates with those of the unorganized, who have to depend upon the rates fixed by the Minimum Wage Board. Compare, too, the advantages that a girl has when she can leave wage fixing to a Union and can also get her work through a Union, with that of the unorganized worker who has to bargain alone with an employer, or if she is afraid to ask what an employer pays, only gets what the employer feels like paying, and to say nothing of the weary tramping and searching for work.

The Minimum Wage Acts of Canada have been likened to the Magna Charta, that is, a great charter of liberty for working women. No one disputes that some good has been obtained for working women, especially those working in what are usually called the unskilled industries. But the loopholes in the orders of the Minimum Wage Boards pro-
vide a way of escape for some employers, especially when they have introduced piece work systems into their factories.

The task that awaits the trade union movement in Ontario and Quebec, where most of the industrial women workers are, is to organize these women into unions. There are 130,000 women workers in industry alone in Ontario. There are more than that number in Quebec.

We urge every working woman and girl to get into a union. The union is the means through which they can obtain protection for their labor.

THE STORY OF ELLEN KENEALY
(A True Story from Life)

THE HUMAN SIDE.

Day after day she visited the Employment Bureau. For hours she would sit patiently waiting a call for house-help, and hoping that this would be a job she could do.

She was only a little woman, and forty years old, but she did not look her years. She had tried to preserve her youthful appearance, not only to please herself, but what was more important, for the sake of getting work. She knew increasing years brought increasing hardship for the woman wage-earner.

To make up for her small stature, she always put every ounce of energy into her work to give people value for their money. And now, after many years of toil, she was beginning to realize she was not quite as strong as she used to be, sometimes her strength gave out completely.

And this little woman was alone, not a single relative belonging to her was living. Her companions were only her chance work companions, and although many of these were sympathetic and sometimes jolly girls, yet often she felt their sympathies forced. She understood why. These were harassing and worrying times and everyone had her own troubles. So she kept most of her worries to herself and those who knew her thought all was well with Ellen Kenealey.

Each day she saw her hard-earned savings getting less. Who was there to give her shelter or assistance when her last cent was gone? No one. What would she be in the eyes of the law? A vagrant. She shuddered at the thought. But she could not help pondering over this, the thought would not leave her. It stayed with her as she sat waiting for work. It persisted in disturbing her sleep at night. Oh, the horror of unemployment! Oh, the terribleness of the uncertainty of life! What was life to her anyway? She asked herself this question hundreds of times. Why, it was just a dreary miserable existence! When she did manage to get a job cleaning up other people’s dirt it was sheer slavery. Women who employed her expected her to get through a week’s work in a single day. She hated them for their heartlessness. But, then, again, when there was no work, she faced starvation.
This was her life. It was becoming a burden to her mind. Who would miss her? She hadn’t a friend in the world! She knew she was growing desperate. She was better out of the struggle. The struggle to live was not worth the mental anguish. Death, peace, the end of struggle, these became more pleasant to her mind. It was quite an easy thing to put an end to her existence. Just a little poison, then—the end. At last, summoning all her courage she walked boldly into a drug store and bought carbolic acid. Death—but the end of the struggle to live. Peace.

But she could not die in her rented room. This might cause the landlady trouble, and she had only recently taken the room. No, she must die in solitude, just like a dog without a home.

Having thus decided, she boarded a suburban car and travelled until she came to a secluded place. Then she left the car. No one was near. Calmly and deliberately she drank the poison. How it burned her throat! Never mind, the pain was nothing compared with her mental anguish! How long now before she died! She was losing consciousness—Was she dying?

COLD FACTS.

Ellen Kenealey was found in an unconscious condition. She was taken to the hospital. Here, after a treatment she regained consciousness. The hospital authorities notified the police. The police took her to the station, where she remained all night. To the police, she told her story of unemployment. “I cannot get work. I have no friends. I am better dead than alive.”

Next day in the Women’s Court she was charged with “attempted suicide” and ordered to the Reception Hospital for observation. But Ellen Kenealey was not to be observed for very long. The next day she died.

At the inquest, held three weeks later, all that was known of Ellen Kenealey was told. The hospital authorities claimed she fought against relief, she never complained of pains, and they doubted if she had taken poison.

The jury’s verdict was, “We find that Ellen Kenealey came to her death on March 28, in the Reception Hospital as a result of carbolic acid, self-administered on March 26, while suffering from acute despondency on her inability to secure employment.”

THE LESSON.

Ellen Kenealey’s case was taken up by the Toronto Women’s Labor League. The League protested through the press against what appeared to be neglect on the part of the authorities in not discovering how sick she was. The protest was not in vain. It brought to light the anguish of a hardworking, respectable woman worker who found herself unemployed.

It brought, too, a letter from one of her former employers who vouched for her respectability, industriousness, and good breeding.

Ellen Kenealey’s case is but one of many hundreds. All do not act with the same deliberateness as she.
Life, under modern conditions of employment, only presents hopelessness when these conditions are not understood. The capitalist system of wage labor exploitation is ruthless with its victims. Workers are cheap these days. Their lives are of little importance.

If Ellen Kenealey had known these things she might have had another outlook. She might have been a member of a trade union, then she would not have felt so helpless and so lonely. The union not only is a wage protector, but it does concern itself in the welfare of its members.

Women workers, let the story of Ellen Kenealey impress itself upon you. Ask yourselves, shall it be the fate of Ellen Kenealey, or shall we join the union for protection? Into the union, and strengthen Labor's fight for unemployment insurance.

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("The Worker")

Toronto.

THE STORY OF OUR FAMILY
(By Florence Custance)
(Synopsis of the two previous contributions published in the mimeographed issues.)

To understand the Story of Our Family it is necessary to accept the fact of the Law of Change—Evolution. Change takes place under our eyes, sometimes with great rapidity. Old things are discarded and new take their place. Yet, actually, nothing is entirely new, one thing develops from another. For example, all the great industrial processes of to-day depend upon a discovery made by our primitive forefathers—that discovery was Fire.

While some things change with great rapidity, the change in other things is so slow as to be imperceptible, and, in fact, the change can only be discovered through observations covering a long period of time.

Among the things that appear to be fixed are the groupings and relationships of people. The grouping we call "Our Family" is to us very dear; yet, even "Our Family" is not the same as the family of our primitive forefathers. Still they are linked up, and the family of to-day is but the outcome of the family groupings of long, long ago. It is the purpose of this story to unfold the reasons for the changes, and what those changes were, that have brought to us the present form of "Our Family."

(Continued)
stitutions) changed accordingly. As we proceed with our story this will be very clear to us.

HOW MANKIND ADVANCED

We have already stated that fire was the important discovery which formed the foundation of many inventions. Fire, too, was a means of defense against wild animals, as well as a means of making food more pleasant to the taste.

Then there followed the invention of the "bow and arrow." This was used in procuring food and was also a weapon of warfare. Then came the making of pottery. Later came the domestication, or breeding, of animals for food, and along with this the cultivation of food plants, first for animals, and later for man himself. These were followed by the discovery of smelting iron and the invention of the iron tool. This last invention made it possible to clear lands of forests, build houses, and for man to have a settled habitation.

When settled habitation became possible the people living in this settled territory made further advancement; not alone of supplying the needs of the body, but attention could now be given to what is called Art (self expression) and to the study of the mysteries around them (the development of Science).

When the machine made its appearance, first used by the hand, then water power, later steam power and now electric power, progress went apace by leaps and bounds. To-day we find ourselves in an age which reveals constantly the fruits of man's ingenuity.

THE STAGES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND.

We are very fond of calling ourselves "civilized." This is more often than not said to distinguish us from others we desire to belittle. We are apt to think this name places us in the position of being "cultured."

But civilization has a deeper meaning, and is connected with a development upon which culture itself depends.

When tracing the stages of the development and progress of mankind, Lewis Morgan gives three main stages which are again divided into sub-stages, according to the degree of progress along the line of invention and discovery. These three main stages are: Savagery, Barbarism and Civilization.

(To be continued).

SUCCESS TO THE "WOMAN WORKER."

"The Editor."

At last we have our magazine. Yes, and actually in print! This has been made possible because of the loyal support given our previous feeble mimeographed attempts. Many encouraging letters came from our Labor Leagues. Some of the Leagues bought sufficient copies for their membership; some sent in donations and paid for their next bundle in advance. By these means we have been able to get sufficient money together to pay for our first printed issue.

This is what can be called support. It makes one feel proud of our
women and our movement. If this support continues, and we hope that our efforts will merit continued support, we shall have no need to fear for the success of the Woman Worker.

The Woman Worker is the voice of the Women's Labor League Movement. It will tell what our movement is doing to help raise the standard of life for women workers. It will deal with domestic, industrial and political problems affecting the lives of working women. It will tell about the struggles of the workers throughout the world and the status of women in the countries throughout the world. It will endeavor to speak truthfully about these struggles so that those who hear our voice will have confidence in it. And, lastly, it will breathe hope into our struggle for the happiness which we know is possible for the workers.

It will be seen that our magazine will be quite unlike other magazines which are published for the benefit of women. It will not contain fashions and patterns, and we are leaving recipes for cooking to the cook book. We shall not print sickly love stories, we are leaving these to the other magazines. Instead, we shall devote our attention to things that are overlooked by the other magazines. Everything that will be printed in our magazine will deal with life, real life, not imaginations. Its sole objective will be to champion Protection of Womanhood, and the Cause of the Workers generally.

Its columns will be open to all our readers. In fact, one of the main features of our magazine is “Correspondence from Working Women.”

The Woman Worker should be in the hands of every working woman, no matter what her occupation. The women who are members of the Labor League Movement will accomplish a great work if they will undertake this for the Movement. Building our Labor League Movement depended upon OUR MAGAZINE. OUR MAGAZINE is here. All hands are wanted for its distribution. This alone will bring success to the Woman Worker.

REGISTERED NURSES HOLD FIRST MEETING

Recently the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario held their first meeting in Belleville, Ont. Some very important problems connected with their work were discussed. These were: supplying sufficient numbers of nurse teachers to meet the demand of training schools in the Province; the production of competent superintendents for small hospitals; supervision of the supply of student nurses; the bad practice of unsupervised nurses doing district work for insurance companies, and the danger of lowering the standards of nursing in Ontario through political influence.

These questions discussed by the nurses in convention are of sufficient importance to working women. Thousands of working women fill the hospitals, thousands depend upon nurses in childbirth. It is necessary that our working women shall support the effort of the
TO OUR READERS
We want your letters. We want your opinions. We want your stories from life and of life. So write us.

WOMEN IN PROFESSIONS ORGANIZE AND DISCOVER THE ADVANTAGES OF ORGANIZATION
The women teachers in the Province of Ontario number about 14,000. Of this number 3,700 are organized in the Federation of Women Teachers’ Associations. At the annual meeting, held in April, it was reported that one of the advantages derived through organization was that they had been able, to a certain degree, to combat unemployment. They were now in a position to place unemployed teachers in positions.

Through their organization they were demanding a higher standard of qualifications in order to reduce the numbers flocking into ranks already overcrowded. It was also reported that they had assisted, by means of voluntary contributions, the teachers who went out on strike in Blairmore, Alberta.

WHAT WORKING CLASS HOUSEWIVES AND OTHER WOMEN ARE DOING

Finnish Women Hold a Conference
The Finnish working women of Port Arthur, Fort William and the surrounding small towns held a conference during the month of May to discuss very important matters, both of organization and forms of activity. Among the things they proposed taking up and for which they will work are: Support Labor Defense, Fight Bootlegging and Drunkenness, especially among the Youth; Fight exploitation by the jobbing contractors which reduces the lumberworkers to a miserable state of slavery; Support cooperatives; To combat the Cadet system of military training of the school children; To take more interest in the forms of education of working class children.

Some of the delegates to the conference discussed joining the Women’s Labor League Federation, but this was left over for further consideration at another conference to be held in the Fall.

BETH MIRIAM GIRLS DISCUSS “WHY THE POOR REMAIN POOR, AND HOW THE RICH OBTAIN THEIR RICHES”

Our Young Women Are Waking Up.
The Beth Miriam Girls’ Club has about thirty members, all under twenty years of age. These girls organized for social purposes. They held sales of work and social affairs, the proceeds of which were turned over to the various charitable organizations.

Now they have discovered that this does not get them very far. They have decided that they will include “education” in the program of activity. Their first educational meeting took the form of a general discussion.
and Mrs. Custance of the Toronto Women's Labor League was asked to lead the discussion.

When asked by Mrs. Custance upon what subject they desired knowledge they said, "The problem of the workers in relation to the rich."

By the process of question and answer, thirty bright, intelligent girls discovered that the workers were poor because they received for their labors only a portion of the wealth which they produced. In Canada that portion was One-fifth, the class of employers got Four-fifths. The ever-increasing wealth of the rich was obtained from the workers because the workers, after working a portion of the time in which they produced enough wealth to cover their wages, were compelled to keep on working until they produced enough wealth or values, which covered rent, interest and profits for their employers. It was seen that the lower the employers kept the wages the more profits they would be able to keep for themselves.

This explained the reason for the existence of the rich. This was why the rich wanted to have a hold on the workers. This hold they had, because they had become the rulers, and in order to remain the rulers they spent much money and supported institutions which helped them to control the workers' minds. The result of all this was conflicts between the workers and the rich—those who produced and those who owned the products.

The Beth Miriam Girls decided that trade unionism was better than having a government board set a minimum wage. Some of them gave examples of how the employers evaded giving their workers the minimum wage.

We need a design for the cover of our magazine. It must of course, fit the name—Woman Worker. Who can supply this?

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