

# The Young Worker

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The Workers' Santa Claus.

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# THE YOUNG WORKER

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## AN AMERICAN FASCISTI

SECURE in the thought that the activities of the Italian Fascisti are confined to a country many thousands of miles away, the organized and unorganized worker in America is prone to overlook the significance of the example set by those Italian young white guards to their prototypes in the United States. There is material in the United States for a far more rabid labor-destroying band than the Fascisti ever can be.

The utter neglect of the working class youth by the unions—in fact by every workers' organization—gives to the bosses and their cohorts the confidence and conviction that it will be an easy matter to wield the working class youth in the interest of capitalism; and when it is necessary, they will form a Fascisti—it might not bear that name, but it will serve the purpose as well, if not better.

The great mass of the youth in this country are the children of the workers. They are reared in the schools of the capitalists; pampered in their associations; poisoned in their religious societies; put into action against their own parents and brothers in the militia and army. The Boy Scout clubs are the kindergartens of the Fascisti—organized labor destroyers. Yet union men will tolerate the membership of their boys in such organizations. If it is necessary for workers to organize in unions to stave off the encroachments of the master, why is it not equally urgent that the youth of the working class band together along class lines to ward off the insidious poison spread among them through the schools, press and athletic associations. Organization of the workers' children in workers' organizations is the antidote against the poisonous formation of the American Fascisti.

## EVER PRESENT RED YOUTH

LAURENCE TORRENCE in a recent issue of the *Voice of Labor* depicts a German hunger demonstration. The Communists had called the masses into the streets to protest against the rising cost of living and to demand a united front of the workers. One hundred thousand toilers responded and marched through the streets with flowing red banners. The demonstration was punctuated with vivacious red youth. They spoke, they marched, they sold literature, they made up the "red guard."

Torrence repeatedly emphasizes the role of the youth in this demonstration. Here are some quotations:

The red flags fly, the young voices (for mostly the youth are there) sing. There are other songs of the revolution, but over and over you hear the marchers fling out the promise: "The Internationale shall be the human race. . . ."

The speaker nearest me is good to hear. Eloquent, passionate; youth and the fires of rebellion burn fiercely in him. The people listen in silence. . . . Their hunger, their needs, this man knows. . . . He stabs the quivering air awake with the cry, he strikes deep into the consciousness of his hearers. . . . Solidarity for the struggle. . . .

Everywhere along the line of march and on the square, numerous bright, attractive young men and women, as also boys and girls from about fourteen to sixteen, sold the Communist publications to the workers on the sidewalks. They bothered with the well-dressed not at all—selecting only the workers for their appeal. They seemed to have no trouble interesting them.

## ORPHANS OF THE WORKING CLASS

RUSSIA'S famine victims starved to death as soldiers in the army of the working class. The blockade around Russia was maintained by world capitalism to crush the workers government there, even though those responsible knew that millions might die.

It was a clean cut struggle. Crops had failed. War had devastated industry and agriculture. When the workers took over Russia, they inherited a helpless tangle of wrecked and ruined factories, railroads, mines and mills. When the famine came, desperate world capitalism saw its chance in the hovering of starvation and death over great masses of peasants and workers. The blockade was tightened. Yes, they offered food—in one hand bread, in the other a bayonet to stab the workers in the back while they ate the bread.

The class conscious workers throughout the world saw the danger to worker's government in Russia as a result of the famine. Though steeped in poverty they made every effort to collect funds, food and clothing to relieve the distress of their fellow workers in Russia. In America, all workers with the least semblance of class feeling in them helped. The Friends of Soviet Russia, the leading organization here in this work gained the undying gratitude of the starving Russian peasants. It is not for us to sing the praise of the F. S. R. Others more able have fittingly commended their noble work. Among these are Lenin and Kalenin.

Now the awfulest days of the famine are over. This years crops are promising, though not overly abundant. Those surviving may hope more confidently.

In distributing food in the famine areas, the rule was to feed the children and young first. For in Russia youth is the hope of the future. So the adults died, and their children remained. Soviet Russia has now the added duty of caring for the orphans of those who died rather than eat the bitter bread of world imperialism, of those who died so that the first workers government might live and stand out as an inspiration to the enslaved workers everywhere.

The orphans of the dead workers and peasants of the Volga Valley are the orphans of the working class. They look to the workers of the world for the substance of life—food and clothing and shelter; and the workers cannot fail them. There are thousands of them, and as workers we owe them a debt, which, no matter how we may try, can never be fully paid. We helped keep them alive until now. Shall we let them sink into despair in their battle against tremendous obstacles? They are the future Russia; they are the citizens of the coming Communist society.

Russia must be built. It will be built, not by the Russian workers alone, but by the mighty effort and support of the workers in all lands. Such organizations as the Friends of Soviet

(Continued on page 15.)

# Youth in America's Coal Fields

By CLUDE BEALY

**C**OAL is the basic need of modern industry. The large trusts and syndicates have found it necessary to own mines in order to insure fuel for their properties, and a study of wealth ownership in this country reveals that a small group of capitalists own the coal mines. The great bulk of mining properties in the United States is owned by the following interests:

Gary, Wilkinson, Estate of: Converse, Carnegie, Frick, Rockefeller, Morgan, Phipps, Baker, Schwab and Corey.

It will be noted from the above names that coal is closely related to the steel, oil and transportation industries.

In order to understand the position of the young workers in the coal industry it will be well to go into a general survey of coal mining generally. In 1920 there were over 650 million tons of coal produced, anthracite and bituminous, with a value of \$2,554,185,000. There are now employed in and about the coal mines of the United States about 800,000, of which around 100,000 are between the ages of 10 and 21. Of these 800,000 the great majority work underground. The young workers are not employed as frequently as adults underground, but do work about the mine; though it is not uncommon to find boys 13, 14 and 15 employed in the mines.

The most important coal mines are in Pennsylvania where over 80 million tons of anthracite and 170 million bituminous coal is produced annually. We will pick out a particular spot in the heart of the mining industry in Pennsylvania, namely, Schuylkill County which includes the towns of Shenandoah, Gilberton, and Frackville, and examine the particular conditions of the young miners there. There is but little difference in the conditions of the youth in the coal industries elsewhere—some places they might be slightly better, in other places much worse. But in Schuylkill County we will meet with the average conditions and miseries met by the youth of America in the coal fields.

Coal mines are situated nearly always in a hilly country. The country round is "black . . . dominated by the great breakers which rise about the towns. The streams are black with soot and there are black piles of refuse and culm, and the men returning from work wear masks of coal and dust." The houses are owned by the mining interests and are in bad shape.

Overcrowding is forced on the miner's family by the mine boss who bribes the wives and widows with gifts of coal for housing single men. With this condition existing, the general surrounding of the child born in a mining district is not a happy one. The taste of coal dust is in their mouth at birth.

Pennsylvania law provides that no child shall be given a permit to go to work until he is 14 years of age, and no child under 16 shall be permitted to work underground. But that doesn't mean anything. As one investigator reports, a child in this district "had secured employment on a baptismal certificate when he was 12." Eighty-

one per cent of the miners' children left school before the completion of the eighth grade. Out of 3,136 between the age of 13 and 16, 1,349 were at work, mostly in or about the mines. With the war came a rise in the number of children who went to work. This no doubt was a step towards world democracy.

The young miner begins work at the breaker. The life cycle of a miner as expressed by an old-timer is this: "You begin at the breaker and you

end at the breaker, broken yourself." Old men and boys work at the breakers. The breaker in a mine is a shanty filled with crushing machines and shakers, and the breaker boys work around the machines as pickers, picking the slate out of the crushed lumps of coal. The first few weeks at the job bruises and swells the tender hand of the children. Some of the boys oil machinery, some break cars as they come into the breaker, some drive mules. In one mine there were 4 boys 12 years of age working underground 21 at 13 years of age, 49 at 14 years of age and 63 at 15. Various occupations are given the young boys in the mines. However, contrary to the common conception, underground work is not as dangerous as some work around the breaker.

In the breakers the boys are constantly in danger of being mangled by the machines. "One boy told of the death of another while watching the dam beneath the breaker. He and some of the other breaker boys had helped to extricate the mutilated body from the wheels in which their companion was caught; he himself had held the bag into which the recovered parts of the dead body were put." Mine work is more hazardous in the United States than in any other country in the world. Close to four men per every one thousand employed in



Young Mine Workers Coming Home From Work.

mines lose their life each year. In all, something like three to four thousand miners lose their lives annually. The recent mine disasters have brought the hazardous position of the American miner more vividly to the mind of the average worker who before gave no thought to it.



Two Young Boys, One 12 and the Other 15, Scabbing in Indiana During the Recent Coal Strike. The Man in the Rear is a Mine Union Official Who Found the Boys Pushing a Load of Coal Out of the Mine.

Strange though it may seem, in organized districts, all the boys in the mine belong to the United Mine Workers of America. No special attention is paid by the union to the exploitation of the youth. The reactionary labor officials have paid too much attention to their jobs to be bothered with the death of a few hundred or a few thousand "young pups" in the mines.

Wages vary for the youthful miners: Some of them get under \$5.00, some over \$9.00, but the average is about \$6.50 per week. Miner's work generally is irreg-

ular. This cuts the average wages down for the year. The miners generally work on the eight hour day basis, but the young fellows are exploited by being worked overtime when the law specifically prohibits it. Overtime means greater hazard to the life and limb of the young miners, for statistics show that a greater number of accidents occur during the last hour of work (even with an eight hour day); and overtime doubles—even triples the hazards.

Unlike the average deluded young proletarian in other industries, the young miner is not fired with great ambitions. His class position is too obvious to him. His schooling is so deficient that he hasn't been pumped with so much capitalist propaganda such as is found in other districts. His father, uncles and older brothers—even he himself—have participated in many strikes during his short life time and he knows the stigma of "scab." He carries a union card and awaits the day when he too will be a full-fledged miner.

In West Virginia and Colorado the life and surroundings of the miners children have been extremely bitter. The Colorado and West Virginian mining youth know the smell of gun powder and the feel of bullets. Militiamen and mine guards are not particular whether they kill a miner or his son; both are his enemies; both, when necessary, carry rifles against the sluggers.

The revolutionary message of the working class youth has not been carried to the miners' children in the United States because of the comparative weakness of the organizations in the field. The Young Workers League has not even scratched the surface; the great bulk of young miners are unaware of its existence.

Just as the miner's in the Siberian mines were counted among the vanguard in the Russian revolution, just as the miners in the Ruhr Valley will form the front ranks of the Red Army of Germany, so will the American miners, with youth in the lead, be counted among the staunchest in the fight for Communism.

## The Movement---"As She Is"

By S. B. FIELDS

TO one, spending all his life in one city, not coming in contact with any but with the comrades in his home town, the movement often seems a drab, discouraging affair. The work is perhaps tiresome. Very often there are spells of gloom. Coming in contact continually with the same comrades and with the same people, always the same difficulties—too often sparse attendance of meetings; fizzles and failures of affairs—only intense courage and faith, faith that somehow gets up every morning ready to start a new day, only this carries him through the very blue and fruitless periods.

Yet despite the discouraging aspect of the movement at home the average individual has a vague conception of a mysterious inspiring movement existing in other cities. The further the distance of a city or state the greater the mystery and charm—the more it perhaps serves as inspiration to keep up the good work at home. Often one thinks, Ah, but to get away from here and to go to such and such a city where one may meet with ready response, with encouragement, with almost ready fruits for his labors. But the truth is indeed disillusioning. We must and should face it. I say should,

because those of us seriously in the movement must always be prepared to face hard, cold reality—and, knowing it, plan from that angle. It may be well to entertain a bright and cheerful illusion or two. It may inspire us and speed our work. But we must beware of getting drunk with such illusions. We have had too much of it in the past and have failed to adjust ourselves and our organizations properly to our tasks at hand. He who takes but one or two drinks of wine may feel its benign and cheerful influence—it may do no harm—it may even help, but he who takes often of the wine gets drunk and knows not how the world goes on about him.

The truth that we must face is that wherever one goes, whether it be to New York or Cleveland, to San Francisco, Chicago, Seattle, Kansas City or St. Louis, it is the same old story. The same old story of one or two plugging hard, doing all the work, keeping things agoing and the spirit constant. Go to New York. What do you find? Jack and Jim selling the papers, Jack or Jim arranging the meetings teaching the classes, Jack or Jim doing this and doing that—and getting all the blame when anything goes wrong. And



so it is in Kansas City, so it is in Seattle, in San Francisco, in Chicago, in St. Louis and wherever else you go. The millions do not flock to do the work. Yes, even every member within our organization does not respond, in fact in nine cases of ten, if a majority respond then our particular branch has attained a high rating among many. We, of the Young Workers League, must realize this, must know what we have to face. If we do so we will not be disappointed. We will know just what to expect. Rather be pleasurable disappointed than to go around with a eternal grouch expecting the impossible and unattainable. No organization, no matter what its aims, except in the height of a crisis or in fever heat excitement ever attains to anywhere near eighty per cent much less 100 per cent perfection. Especially during times when we strive to build up new amidst apathy on all sides, to expect more than sixty or seventy per cent functioning is indeed building air castles.

Thus we have it, the movement "as she is." Let us face these truths. Let us not drown ourselves in meaningless phrases and self glorification. Here is what we have to face. Beside the bitter class struggle we must recognize the mechanics, the structure, the functioning of organization. If you have the courage that youth gives us, if you possess the vigor that old age saps and that we of the younger generation inherit, then square up and face the reality. Square up and grit your teeth to the task if you must. Your task is to be able to go it alone, go it alone if every mother's son of a comrade deserts you and strays off into the easier paths of youth. Fight it out despite all the discouragement, KNOW that you can expect little now, that you are the pioneer, but know also that you are doing your share. You are helping to build, to keep the spirit agoing, little as there may be of it, and that the day will come when that spirit will catch afire, spread to the millions who will carry it on to victory.

## Literature and the Workers' Movement

By C. REVILO

THE waste and wreckage of capitalism lies mountain high on all sides of us. Its music, its art, its drama, its literature—all, all reflect the commercialism of the time. The predominant note in all is expressed by one word—JAZZ. There is a great deal of noise to it, noise, bluff, deception. After all, George McManus has rendered us a real service in creating for us the character of a Jiggs. Does he not typify the business man of today? He prefers a burlesque show to opera; he reads little or nothing, and then only the sensational books and magazines; he enjoys immensely the acrobatic performances of the players in a modern syncopated jazz orchestra, but falls asleep at the concerts of the philharmonic; he is in his seventh heaven when closely examining the figure of a chorus girl, but is bored to death by the statuary of ancient and modern times. Is it to be wondered at, then, that art is decadent? Those who would win recognition must satisfy the tastes of the monied men—and we see the result of it. But the business man is always full of pep. He is always ready to give worthy advice to the poor. The "early to bed and early to rise" maxims are held in the forefront at all times, but, as Burton Rascoe says:

"The maxims of Franklin have been fused into a pseudo-philosophy to meet the imperative needs of a stifling economic pressure. Keep Smiling! Do It Now! Cheer Up! Be a Booster! and such exclamatory inanities are not a philosophy but doses of heroin and cocaine to stimulate a false and overwrought enthusiasm for dubious endeavors . . . they are opiates cynically administered by commission men on the parasitic fringe of industrialism who profit from the spurts of false energy . . ."

In spite of all this, it is this ruling class which calls for an unbiased art. Art for art's sake—they shout at us—and in the same breath curse those who refuse to let their writings music, or paintings serve as propaganda for the present system of society. It requires almost superhuman efforts for the real artists to rise to a point of prominence. Many, if not most of them, go through life in poverty, while medocrities climb to the top of the social and financial ladder in no time.

Fortunately, a new plant is springing up out of the debris. Even this country is giving signs of a resurrection. We have a few like Dreiser, Floyd Dell, Sinclair, Lewis, Sherwood Anderson, Eugene O'Neill, Ralph Chaplan who are paving the way for the art and the culture of tomorrow. In Europe there are more of them, and the proletarian culture idea is taking root from southern Italy to far off Norway. In the ranks of the advanced and enlightened workers are to be found the fine and best artists of today, dramatists like Toller, poets like Barthel and Nerman; novelists like Anatole France and Martin Anderson Nexø; composers like Mascagni. They are laying the foundation for a newer, higher culture, which may be shared and enjoyed by one and all. In Russia, where the workers rule, a tremendous advance is being made in this direction under the able direction of Lunacharsky and associates. New schools are rising every day, and new methods of pedagogy are being instituted. The theaters are producing the very best plays, and are forever experimenting to obtain better ways of staging their plays. The old, wierd and mournful music of yesterday is being replaced by one of exultation, of freedom, of progress and achievement. Illiteracy is vanishing like snow beneath the warm rays of the sun. The new day is dawning, when the most backward people of Europe will have become the most enlightened.

Here the seed has just been sown. Proletarian culture is still a new thing, and must wage a bitter struggle for existence. Midst the roar of battle in the great class war, we can find but little time for it, but still it grows, pushing aside the dung and filth that has been allowed to clutter the ground. We must pay more attention to it, for just as the strong arm of labor is needed to overthrow the economic and political chains that bind us fast to a decaying system, so, too, is the new culture, the new art, helping us to unloosen the mental chains that capitalism has inflicted upon us.

The printing presses of today are turning out books, papers and magazines by the thousand, the great bulk of which are not worth looking at. In the realm of

books especially, it is a strange thing to find one that is really worth while.

#### A Starting Point.

Young people want to read—and it is but natural to expect that they desire something more than text-books on economics or history. Although it is by no means the prime function of the Young Workers League to develop the young along "cultural" lines, nevertheless the reading of good literature is to be recommended, and helps more firmly to establish those truths which we have gathered from our text-books or in the study classes.

I recall very vividly even to this day the effect that Sinclair's "The Jungle" had upon me when I read it for the first time a dozen years ago. Although but a child, I claimed to be a socialist. I spoke about the class struggle, but had never seen any of the real bitterness of it. Then, as I read about the struggles of the workers in the Stockyards of Chicago, the term Class Struggle grew real to me. My hatred for the ruling, owning class (a class that permitted such conditions to exist) was almost intolerable. I looked about me. I saw the wage-slaves of my home town, never caring for a thing but to eat, sleep and work; never trying to organize. I became fired with a great desire to go out, spreading the gospel of class-sconsciousness.

Later, when I read the novels of Dickens, picturing the poverty and squalor of the English worker, of Zola as he portrayed the struggles of the workers in France, or of Tolstoy, Gorky, Dostoyevsky, and others of the Russian school, who so vividly held before my eye the intolerable sufferings of the poor workers and peasants in the land of the double-eagle, I came to realize more firmly than ever the truth of that saying, "Workers of world, unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains, you have a world to gain."

#### Romance and Reality.

It is a difficult matter for the young man or woman, eager and anxious to read or study, to learn, if he or she must venture into the fields of literature, art and science without the advice of someone who has been over the road already. To be sure, you can always inquire of the librarian what books are good for you to read—but librarians, with but few exceptions, tread in beaten paths. Hence, they will offer you the Henty books, or those by Charles Barbour, Oliver Optic and others of their type (that is to say, if you are a boy and still quite young). For the girls there are a number of books patterned after the same fashion. All, all of them, silly, unreal.

Should you be well along in your 'teens, then the kind hearted lady at the desk will recommend the "best sellers"—the impossible stories of a Harold Bell Wright, Robert Chambers, Elinor Glyn, Rex Beach, Winston Churchill, Marie Corelli, Mary Roberts Reinhardt. These writers will furnish you with beautiful ladies, noble heroes, and the despicable villain who, in the end, must suffer for his misdeeds. The hard working poor man becomes rich, while the spendthrift millionaire either becomes poverty stricken and commits suicide, or else is saved at the last moment by his faithful sweetheart or wife. So that is romance? So that is literature? So that is what makes a "best seller"?

It is indeed a rare occasion when the librarian recommends to you, for example, Charles Kingsley's *Alton Locke* or *Hypatia*, stories as interesting as can be desired, but yet breathing a spirit of reality. Even H.

G. Wells, who is now so well-known, has done something really worthwhile in his *Ann Veronica* or *New Worlds for Old*. These are excellent and deserve a far wider circle of readers than some of his other books such as *Mr. Britling Sees It Through*, *The War in the Air*, etc.

Stories of the big cities thrill us—but how many of us have ever read that masterpiece of Ernest Poole, *The Harbor*. Here is pictured the great commercial and shipping center. Here, too, we have the workers, who make possible such a place—but the rose-colored spectacles of the "popular" authors is gone, and instead we see life as it really is, cruel, hard, bitter for the masses who must do the work that sends the mighty steamship back and forth across the oceans. Verily, the truth is stranger than fiction.

Those who live in the small towns become attracted to the big city since every cheap writer paints it as a mecca for the youthful adventurer. They show you the parks, the theaters, the sky-scrapers—and the boundless opportunities for gaining wealth, fame, and prominence. The glamour of the white lights on Broadway seems to beckon us on. But, were we to read Jack London's *Peoples of the Abyss* wherein he pictures the poverty, the squalor—the hopeless misery of the millions who must vegetate in the great East Side of London we would think twice before going. Here is twentieth century life in a world's metropolis—a true but terrible story.

#### "And a Little Child Shall Lead Them."

Every successful banker or employer feels it his bounden duty to impress upon the younger generation the need for starting work early in life. His speeches at Sunday school gatherings, from the rostrums in public and high school auditoriums, at Boys' Clubs of every description—there the "self made" man delivers his sermon on "My Rise from a Farm Boy to a Successful Business Man." But that is not all. A veritable flood of books are on the market which tell the same story. "Work hard. Be faithful to your boss. Never listen to the seditious talk of radicals." That is their message to the American youth. That is the highway to fame and fortune—at least that is what we are told.

Child labor is one of the greatest indictments against the present system of society—but who would think so by reading "From Cannal Boy to President" or any one of the thousand books which gloss over the miseries and hardships that must be endured by the young ones who work, whether they be newsies, messenger boys, or factory workers.

I wonder how many of us are familiar with Friederich Engels vivid but terrible picture of the conditions of the young as portrayed in his "Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844?" Charles Dickens, too, has contributed much in this line as all will admit who have read *Oliver Twist*, *Bleak House*, *David Copperfield* or any of his novels. Each and every one of them becomes indelibly imprinted on our minds. However, Dickens is now considered old-fashioned and few read his books, especially so since snappy stories of this jazz age are so widely advertised. But it is not alone the England of yesterday that wrought these terrible crimes. Far from it. *Zangwills Children of the Ghetto* carries us into the present as do Patrick MacGill's *The Rat Pit* and *Children of the Dead End*. The curse of these millions of dwarfed and illiterate youngsters is upon the machine and the machine process of

production, which takes them from the cradle directly into the factory, with never a bit of freedom, of sunshine, of play. This country, too, is cursed with the same blight and for that reason it is considered unwise to let us read Edwin Markham's *Children in Bondage*, for there he lays bare the extent and the hideousness of it all. He takes us with him to see life—the life of these slaves of Mammon. For example the cotton mills.

"Behold, in the hot, damp, decaying atmosphere, little wan figures flying in hideous cotillion among looms and wheels—children choked and blinded by clouds of lint forever molting from the webs, children deafened by the jar and uproar of an eternal Niagara of machines, children silenced utterly in the desert desolation of the neverceasing clamor, children that seem like spectre-shapes, doomed to silence and done with life, beckoning to one another across some thunder-shaken Inferno," or "Go to the glass works of West Virginia and Pennsylvania and amid the roar and the glare and the torrid heat, gaze upon the scorching and shriveling children clustered about the red hives of the furnaces. By night and by day they are there, running constant chance of being burnt and blinded by fragments of molten glass splintering through the room—little workers always wilting in the fierce heat, oftentimes forced to breathe powdered glass as it sleets in the air. Gaze on the haggard, hurrying young creatures harried through hours of intense, monotonous work; their bodies parched, their sleep-robbed eyes blinded by the intolerable glow of furnaces and seared by the insufferable heat; the tissues of their tender bodies, inside and outside, rankling with the cruel fog of the powdered glass."

*The Bitter Cry of the Little Children* by John Sargo is another pen-picture of America's part in grinding dollars from the sweat and blood of babes, though in some respects it seems to be conducting a subtle campaign for the milk trust. Judge Ben. Lindsey has also done good service in dealing with this problem in *The Beast*. But these books are allowed to moulder upon the shelves, while the distorted propaganda tales of the first-mentioned type continue to poison the minds of the young and old alike, making of them staunch patriots and willing slaves.

#### The Woman in the Case.

Eve caused the downfall of man. At least that is what the good book says. And ever since that time men have been accustomed to blame the woman for their ill fortune. But, even stranger than that, is the fact that they have also been considered the inspirer of all good and worthy deeds. A contradiction, indeed.

The modern novelist who turns out a story like a butcher turns out sausages is not interested in giving us real people or real situations. In fact, we may question his ability to do so, even if he wanted to, for he doesn't understand the make-up of people nor their environment. What a difference there is between the tommy-rot of an extremely popular writer like Elinor Glyn and those rather slow-moving but still intensely interesting novels by George Eliot such as *Middlemarch* and *Romola*! But Eliot was an artist and a scientist who understood what she was writing about, and who could carefully and accurately describe the psychological make-up and reactions of the characters whom she was dealing with. Her characters show clearly the influence that traditions, education, and

their general environment had upon them, and they were bound because of this to act and think largely within those realms. Her women characters are remarkable in their way, but that does not make it possible for them to transcend entirely above the age in which they lived.

From ages immemorial LOVE has been held up to us as being the greatest of all gifts, and women, who are for certain natural reasons more emotional than men, have looked forward to the time when Cupid's arrow would unite their hearts with that of some ardent young Lochinvar. Our popular writers proceed from this premise, never touching upon the realities of life and the factors which oftentimes cool even the greatest love. They never let economic considerations affect the status of man or woman. In fact, "Love in a cottage" is one of their most favorite themes. It sounds nice, but as Goldberg says, "It doesn't mean anything." Thus it is that they give a false impression to the multitudes who believe that they mirror life in their novels.

When the husband is out of work, with children hungry and cold, and the wife forced to perform all manner of drudgery to keep the wolf from the door, love generally sneaks out of the window.

The woman question cannot be dealt with romantically, as is the case too often, nor from the point of view of a Schopenhauer or a Nietzsche. Neither solves the problem. Bebel has given us a remarkable analysis in *Woman under Socialism*, while in *Looking Forward* Rappaport handles the problem both interestingly and scientifically. In *A Greek View of Life*, Dickenson makes a remarkable survey of the status of woman in the days of the golden past. Carpenter's *Loves Coming of Age* is something that we will read over again and again, and with more enjoyment at each reading, a fine and wholesome book—and still only a few years ago it was under the ban of censorship.

If girls would read stories like *A Bed of Roses*, by W. L. George, *Jennie Gerhardt* or *Sister Carrie*, by Theodore Dreiser instead of the trash that Robert Chambers and his ilk continue to flood our libraries and book stores with, they would not have such a perverted conception of things. However, we can thank the many old maids of both sexes who serve as the custodians of morals for this. The church, the school, the press, all join hands in this crusade for "purity." Every author who treats the problem fairly and squarely is sure to be stigmatized as a corrupter of public morals. When Strindberg presented the world with *Married*, letting us see a bit of the drab of matrimony, how the wooden-headed "saviors" howled in anguish.

Bernard Shaw's *Irrational Knot* and *An Unsocial Socialist* give us some interesting sidelights on the marriage question when "modernists" are involved, but Floyd Dell does even better in *The Briary Bush*. The trials and tribulations of a couple of young radicals who try to get away from the hackneyed life of ordinary married couples is faithfully presented. Nexo, too in *Ditti*, *Girl Alive* and *Ditti, Daughter of Man*, traces the life and struggles of a young girl as few have been able to do. Brieux's *Damaged Goods* and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* should be read by every intelligent young man or woman. D. H. Lawrence, a contemporary English writer, is another who deals with the woman question most interestingly. His

*Women in Love* was very hard to obtain until a few months ago, but now everyone may avail himself of the opportunity to read this fascinating tale.

Of the latest writers we can congratulate ourselves upon having a man like Sinclair Lewis, who achieved success with *Main Street* (why, I cannot say—for it is not the kind of a book that most people care to read) and who now outdoes himself in *Babbitt*. The first book shows us the pettiness, the sordidness, of small town life in this country. We have all seen *Main Street* over and over again, but possibly, because we were so close to it, we did not see how small and mean it was, and the men who made it and ran it. *Babbitt*, on the other hand, places before us Mr. Middle Class, that virtuous being who thinks he is the all-in-all, but who in reality has to do the dirty work for the real bosses.

Oh, how often have we met you, Mr. Babbitt! You it is who belong to the Business Men's Club or Chambers of Commerce. You uphold the Y. M. C. A., the Boy Scouts, the American Legion—and when they do a worthy deed like helping to break a strike or driving a "red" out of town you wisely nod your head and smile approval.

Yes, real literature is worth while. It helps us to see many things that before were obscure. It inspires us to do greater things. In the pages of the real writers we live through the turmoil of revolts both ancient, mediaeval, and modern. We feel the beaded whip as it falls upon our quivering flesh. We suffer the agencies of the damned in the hell-holes of dark and dirty prisons. We wander hungry and forlorn in search of work while our family slowly starves to death. We labor, sweat and curse in the bowels of the earth, in the engine room of a modern steamer, in the steel mills, under the blistering Arizona sun, or in the strong, deadening cold of the Klondike, we see the bigotry and selfishness of those around us. We realize what fools are those who claim to be the great leaders in the business and politics of today.

All of this we get from literature—real literature. It gives life to society—to us, making us more determined than ever before to carry on until the end.

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EDITORIAL NOTE:—Two or three more articles of nature similar to this one will appear in forthcoming issues of the *Young Worker*, dealing with other books worth reading.

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## As to Change

By S. B. FIELDS

IT IS difficult to break away from the old and get into the new. It is but ordinary human nature to stick to a thing that one has been accustomed to. It has been often repeated that even the man who has a disfigurement or chronic illness becomes so accustomed to it that it often becomes a source of pride and basis of favorable comparison to him. And so it is with institutions and with organizations. Bad as they may become, individuals growing up with them putting their life and energy into building them, protect them jealously and make them a basis of favorable comparison.

And this cannot be said alone of conservative institutions, conservatives and reactionaries. It is just as true of radicals and revolutionaries. Many has been the radical who has started to build something new which for the time being served its purpose, but which, however became antiquated and a drag later. But because he has helped to build it, grown up with it, and nurtured it, he finds it difficult to break, nay it would seem as if the world were going under and life ending were he to break it. And hence we find one time good radicals, good fighters, lost in the turn of the gigantic wheel of progress, left behind more and more, floundering in the old, sticking to worn out conceptions and forms, worn out organizations and institutions which in their time might have been very essential and necessary.

Today the revolutionist finds himself faced with the same situation. He must build in order to accomplish anything; he must build organizations and institutions of his own, he must put into them the energy and fire of his youth and his inspirations. But the danger is that he will stop right there, that he will commit the sins of those who came before him, that he will event-

ually become a drag and that which he has built up will become a nuisance for the further continuance of the class struggle in the fashion necessary at the given moment. The warning is before us. The class struggle has no favorites. Like a coin machine that throws out the coins that are not of the right sort, so does it cast aside that which eventually proves wanting in one way or another. To be sure it does not act as instantaneously, it is a long process—but that is the way it acts in the long run. The class struggle is there. It evolves into its different phases. If we be true Marxians, true revolutionists, we must be ever prepared to appreciate the changing phases and adjust ourselves to them, change our organizations and our forms and methods of action. If we do not, we will be left behind no matter what our protestations about former revolutionary valour, our pretense to be vanguard or leadership. Our good wishes and intentions do not make us the vanguard of the working class. It is our acts. And if our acts are wrong, miscalculated or foolish, it is not for us to cry. We deserve to be hurled among the ancient relics while those who are better fit take our place, or that organization or group wiser and more responsive to the call of the class struggle supersede the antiquated. It is not a matter of theory or sentiment. These are the hard cold rules of the struggle and the sooner we realize them the better we will be fit to cope with the problems ahead. To the Youth, starting on its march with its enthusiasm and its readiness to learn, its eagerness to act, the rules of the game are before it, change is much easier for it—the gold is not yet a frozen prejudice. Theirs is the glorious opportunity to get in and at the task. The hardness of the rules should not lessen the spirit but rather strengthen the determination and steel the will.



# A Word to You

By JOHN WILLIAMSON

**S**INCE the glories of war are once more being held before the youth of America, it behooves the youth to do some straight thinking. All wars are commercial wars, in one sense or another. Those who participate in war are the youth, generally between the ages of 18 to 30. As the membership of the Y. W. L. is about the same age, we do not speak in a 'fatherly' or paternal manner, but as young worker to young worker.

When young we are generally sent to public school to become 'educated'. The majority of us however never get beyond the grammar school. This is because our parents, are either unemployed or if working receive such a pittance in return that it is necessary for the rest of the family to help 'eek out a living.' During our short sojourn in the elementary school we are subjected to a steady barrage of capitalist propaganda, intended to make us more humble and servile when we enter industry. We are told that by arduous labor we may some day become an industrial magnate like Rockefeller or Morgan, or if we perhaps would like to follow another equally 'brilliant' career, we may someday become President or some other political lick-spittle. (Probably a constitution breaker like our Attorney General). The first great contradiction to this equal opportunity bunk is the fact that we must leave school and enter the bone-breaking and body bending jaws of modern industry. With this propaganda engraved in our brains, we begin competing with our parents and old workers for a job. We will work for less wages since we were taught that that was one of the ways to display our 'Americanism.' We are ever ready to scab since we know nothing about unions or our position in industry. Since the workers, both old and young receive in wages only enough to sustain life, the remainder or greater portion of the wealth we create staying with the master of industry, or capitalist class, it is obvious that they, even in their debauchery and revelry cannot utilize it all, must find an outlet for the surplus. Since the same process that has been going on here takes place in other countries, we then have a group of countries either looking for new markets or for new lands to exploit. This causes friction between the various countries which soon manifests itself in War.

Do these capitalists who own this wealth that they want to dispose of, or who want new lands to exploit, go forth and fight these wars. No! The youth of the working class must be sent and subjected to the horrors of war. And if the youth does not volunteer then conscription laws are passed, compelling them to go. Thus we fight. The working class youth is first the victim on the industrial field and then the victim on the battlefield.

To remedy this condition is the task of the working class. The youth should be particularly interested since they are the victims of the vilest exploitation. Under the present system the youth has no future to look forth to. To be either employed or unemployed is only a matter of degree in the life of degradation and misery that we are subjected to. Under a different social system, where production was for use and not for

profit, the youth would have a wonderful future. Youth has great potentialities within itself, and under a Communist system their welfare (because their welfare is the welfare of the nation) would be looked after and the best within them brought out to be useful. We have only to glance at Russia where the working class is in power, altho they have not realized their aim, Communism, yet, owing to backward economic development. In Russia, altho all suffer untold hardships owing to the outside capitalist world, the youth is being taken care of. They are sent to school to become trained. They are given the best and greater portion of whatever food there may be. In Russia they realize that the youth must carry on the struggle tomorrow to a successful end. During the revolution it is the youth who made the greatest sacrifices. It is they who made up the greater portion of the world famed Red Army. It is they who have sacrificed themselves in behalf of the revolution. It is they who are now the vanguard in reorganizing the industrial situation. It is they who carry out the program of the Communist Party. In short, it is the youth that made the revolution successful, and it is they who will accomplish the final aim, Communism. In Russia the youth has a wonderful future. It is beyond words to describe. At the present they work hard, and suffer much, but it is in behalf of themselves, their class. With all this work on hand they are happy, because they are accomplishing something constructive. They face new tasks in the future, perhaps bigger than the present ones, but as in the past, so in the future they will win and triumph in final victory.

In America where the youth is exploited worse than in any other country, they are not organized and do not realize their class position in society. This has been due in the past to the fact that no organization of youth has existed, and the adult parties and labor unions has made no effort to reach them. Young fellow workers, to remedy the conditions described in the beginning of this article, we must abolish the system that produces them. That is Capitalism. To do this we must organize industrially and politically. On the industrial field we must be better organized than at present. Craft unions are obsolete. Industrial unionism is the logical thing. Fight for amalgamation of all the present unions into industrial unions.

If you are not already a member of the Young Workers League, you should line up at once. Altho organized but a few months the young workers, both men and women, are lining up rapidly. With our organization we are able to reach the youth of America. When we, the Youth of America are organized, we will become a factor, yes, the fighting vanguard of America's labor movement. It is a wonderful feeling to know that you are organized to accomplish something constructive in this world of present destruction. We who are lined up in the Y. W. L. have something to look forward to in the future. It is freedom. It is Communism. True, we may have a long time to work for it, but with all hands on deck, with you doing your part, we, like our Russian comrades will be victorious in final conflict.

# News of the Leagues

Comrade Alfred E. Goetz is now touring Ohio, and will visit several cities in West Virginia and Pennsylvania as organizer for the Young Workers League of America. Caleb Harrison, Workers Party organizer in that district, is cooperating with the Y. W. L. in making Goetz's trip a success. Posters have been printed and are being circulated in the cities where our organizer is scheduled to talk. The greater part of his route is through the mining district. If the trip is a success financially it will enable us to send either Goetz or another organizer through the entire Pennsylvania district.

Fifty four dollars and thirty six cents was received through Comrade A. J. Hayes of the Finnish National Propaganda Committee of the Y. W. L. on the Y. C. I. Observer fund. This was from Branch 9 (Harlem Finnish) New York City. This is the largest single sum yet received for this purpose.

The New York League shows signs of a re-awakening. More money for dues is coming in regularly from these comrades, and a review of their last City Central Committee minutes indicates that every one of their 15 branches is beginning to show unmistakable signs of life and vigor. For the time being, educational work constitutes the major portion of the activities of the New York League. A calendar is being published by the New York City central and a limited number is being offered at five cents each to other city organizations of the Y. W. L. The national office has already received orders for over 200.

## Daisytown Holds Successful Affair; well attended.

A masquerade dance was held by the Daisytown Y. W. L. recently, and the literature agent belates the fact that not too good a showing was made in the sale of reading matter but promises "to redeem herself." A collection by this organization for the benefit of the striking miners of Fayette County netted \$8.26 and was forwarded to headquarters at Brownsville, Pa. Money is also being collected for the Russian child famine victims.

All the necessary material has been sent to Stanley Bersavage in Binghamton, New York, and he writes that the chances are bright for the organization of a branch of the Y. W. L. there. This comrade is active in the sale of the Young Worker.

The Warren, Ohio branch is able to report increased activities. These members are making special efforts to clean up their debts with the national office.

Philadelphia does not like to see other Leagues surpass it either in membership nor activities, as at its last city central committee meeting steps were taken to ferret out causes for inactivity. The city organizer was called to task. A new Italian branch has been organized, the West Philadelphia Italian branch. A picnic, held by the Italian comrades, did not turn out very successful.

## Los Angeles Y. W. L. Aids Striking Shopmen.

A theatrical presentation was given by the Young Workers League of Los Angeles for the benefit of railroad strikers in that city.

Wm. Schneiderman informs us that, "These plays were a great success; more morally than financially, in fact, because the cost of this production is close to

two hundred dollars; however, the publicity and the prestige which the presentation of the three plays gave to the Young Workers League in Los Angeles more than repayed our efforts. . . . we are giving the entire net proceeds to the railroad strikers' union . . .

One of our chief difficulties in carrying out our plans was the fact that the Central Labor Council of Los Angeles refused to recognize the Y. W. L., and therefore would not allow us permission to canvass the labor unions on which we were counting for support; this despite the fact that the Shopcrafts' Union appealed to the Central Labor Council with the statement that it was for their benefit that the Y. W. L. were presenting the plays. Despite this handicap, we succeeded more than we dared hope, and one of the direct results will be that we may now gain a foothold in the Shopcrafts' Union because of our active work for them."

In Kansas City the active members of the Y. W. L. held a meeting to decide and adopt tactics to strengthen the League. Comrade Barney Mass complains that "the majority of adult radicals here (in Kansas City) are theoretical, and we find it necessary to progress slowly." They are trying to put the Young Worker on the news stands in K. C.

## Organize League in Norwood, Mass.

"I am about to organize a Y. W. L. branch in Norwood," informs John Louke, "I have rounded up different nationalities and have about fifty names of those who are willing to join the Y. W. L." This is to be an English branch. More news on this latter.

Because a good many of the members of the Seattle, Washington, branch are out of work, and others go to school, the comrades there are going to run an affair, proceeds of which will be turned in for defense to cover national assessment.

The comrades in Seattle are particularly interested in the Young Worker. John Williamson of the Seattle League has written an article which appears in another part of this issue. Other members should follow suit.

Belle Robins of the Workers Party, District 2, has sent out a letter to all branches in her district urging the older comrades to help in organizing the youth. The letter contains a stirring appeal that cannot easily be ignored by the adult revolutionists.

## Neffs First to Make Monthly Report.

James Paboucek, secretary of the Y. W. L. of Neffs, Ohio is the first secretary to render a report on the printed blanks sent out by the national office. The report shows that there are 21 members in this league of which 17 belong to unions. The other three members go to school.

The Y. W. L. of Superior is receiving the able support of Comrade Max Greenberg and things are livening up there. A branch is to be organized in Duluth, Minnesota, which will cooperate closely with the Superior Branch. Most of the members are young comrades around sixteen years of age. They are going to study "Youth Under Americanism."

## Detroit Clears up Debts Preparatory to Action.

The Detroit Y. W. L. has paid for all dues stamps received by it, as well as for the greater portion of literature received. This is done to clear the way for action as a good-standing Y. W. L. city organization.

(Continued on page 11.)

# News of the Young Workers' League of Canada

**I**N TORONTO there are leagues in the English, Finnish and Jewish languages. Just recently the English and Finnish branches were amalgamated into one general branch. Toronto now has a membership of over a hundred. They have a long story of experiences already.

**MONTREAL** comrades inform us that International Youth Day was celebrated by holding a huge open air meeting on Fletchers Field, which was a success from every point of view. In the evening they held a concert. Organizing study classes and dramatic section. Have membership of 25 and plan to go straight ahead.

**SAULT STE. MARIE** comrades celebrated the International Youth Day. They have over twenty members composed of students, house, factory and some lumber camp workers. Business meetings are held twice a month; a small paper is edited by members and written by hand; at every meeting an assistant editor is appointed, who in turn will be head editor at the next meeting. Thus members are trained to write articles and news. Have gymnastic and sporting club. Study classes are conducted with Workers Party branches. Also dramatic club putting on plays and concerts.

**TIMMINS** has a membership of over twenty to start with. They celebrated International Youth Day and had two concerts. Study and reading circle meets

every week regularly. Members in Workers Party branch Gymnastic club. Also organizing singing club.

**COBALT.** They had International Youth Day celebration; entered the ranks with 23 members; have singing club, are organizing three-day concert including play and reading. They are reading and studying the "ABC of Communism" and Lenins' State and Revolution.

**SOINTULA** has over thirty members; singing and gymnastic clubs, speakers and reading circles. Also a paper.

Also there are branches in Edmonton, Calgary and Creighton Mines and word comes that organization is under way in Vancouver, Websters Corners, Winnipeg and Fort William.

Our short history starts with real life and understanding of the requirements of the Youth movement. And our comrades in U. S. and Great Britain hail us with greetings. These are quotations of the letter from Young Communist League of Great Britain:

"We cannot find words suitable to express our keen pleasure and enthusiasm, at the formation of a Young Movement in your country. Please keep up constant communication with us in the future and we will always assist you in your work. 'ALL HAIL TO THE REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH OF CANADA'!"

## "Why I Joined the Young Workers' League."

**I**N the West Side Branch of the Chicago League recently as part of the educational activities the comrades were requested to write essays giving reasons why they joined the Young Workers League. Here with we print two of the best submitted:

### Why I Joined the Young Workers' League.

By LILLIAN SAFFERN.

To rouse the workingman; to waken him to the realization of his own power to tear the chains that enslave him, is the great need of today.

The tools with which we may work towards that end are agitation and organization.

In order to wield them competently, we must have education that is based on sound scientific principles, not only theoretical, but taken from actual living facts. To attain this, we must have a group of earnest interested workers.

From my observation of the Young Workers' League, they seemed to tend in that direction, that is why I joined them.

And I hope the league will continue successfully, and prove to be a dominating factor in the Emancipation of the Working Class.

(Continued from page 10.)

The Hungarian comrades in Detroit have done exceptionally well on the Y. C. I. Observer fund. Detroit is known as the city of "Marxian intellectuals," and we expect some boy wonders to crop up there. Look to your laurels, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia.

## "My Reasons for Joining the Young Workers' League."

By JENNIE GREENBERG

After getting out of school and starting to work I did not find things to be as nice as was impressed upon our minds by the bourgeois teachers.

I had my first experience as a worker when I was employed in a mail order house as a stenographer, which some people think is a very fine position and in which the girls are treated so nicely.

Well, one of the nice things about it was that the forelady gave the girls a seven-minute pass, to go to the washroom, one in the morning and one in the afternoon; and if one should be out more than the stated seven minutes they would get a calling down and be told that if they stay out longer than that time again they would not get any more passes. (Of course I did not stay there very long). There were many other evidences of exploitation that served to point out my position in society.

Later, to my luck, I came in contact with some radicals and I started to attend different lectures and then I began to realize my position. Then one of the comrades in my branch recommended the Y. W. L. I attended some of the meetings and saw that the League is just the right thing to belong to. It gives educational along proletarian lines. After coming to two or three meetings I joined and now I know that I have gained very much since, because of being more enlightened in many things.

I wish to say that I am very grateful to the comrad that recommended the League to me.

# The Basis for Prostitution in Capitalism

By EDGAR HART

(Concluded in this issue.)

## Wages Today.

How have wages fared since 1913? Are the workers getting more now than they were in 1913 when the Illinois Vice Committee made its investigation? If they are, then, naturally, we must arrive at the conclusion that the bottom is knocked out of prostitution.

To be sure the amount of money that workers, male and female, now receive for their labor is more than they got in 1913 or ever before, but the quantity of commodities they can purchase for their wages is the same, if not less. In some industries it is the same; in many it is less.

Even capitalist economists agree with the economic principle that the money wages that workers receive is not a guide in determining whether the income of laborers has increased or decreased.

Real wages is the criterion in determining whether the workers are receiving actually more or less. And the fact that wages in dollars and cents are now more than they were in 1913 means nothing until we ascertain whether the wages sufficiently provide for the maintenance of the worker and his family. To find out whether the conditions for prostitution are as rife today as they were in 1913 we must make a comparison of wages, first, of the workers in general, and secondly, of female workers, as to the increase or decrease of real wages since that time. As David Friday, professor of political economy of the University of Michigan accurately points out in his book, *Profits, Wages and Prices* '... the significant thing to the workingman is real wages, the things which money wages will buy. These may not have increased at all, for money wages do not become real wages until they have been taken to the market and exchanged at a price for the goods which the laborer wants \* \* \*. The important question is whether the new money wages enable the laborer to maintain and improve his former standard of living, or whether he has smaller purchasing power now than in pre-war years."

There are no comprehensive statistics relative to wages paid in all the industries in the United States. Undoubtedly the facts that figures of this nature would reveal would be startling to the workers for it would show, most strikingly, that the majority of wage earners at no time get enough wages to maintain a decent standard of living. But what does the data at hand show?

The bureau of statistics of the New York Industrial Commission compiled figures showing that wages had risen from 1914 to 1919 for all workers in that state 82 per cent. Living costs, according to a detailed graph in A. Epstein's book, *Facing Old Age*, for workers had gone up 90 per cent in the same period. Hence, the workers were receiving less, in New York, in real wages in 1919 than they received in 1914. At the same time they were working longer hours, and their efficiency was greater; that is they worked harder and produced more goods for the time spent. Though women's wages were also raised, the proportion was not as great as the average increase.

On the wages of workers generally in 1916 and 1917,

Professor Friday says, "In 1916 and 1917 the laborer's share, stated as a percentage, was reduced materially. This does not mean that his money wages decreased, for they were larger than previously. But the wages of labor rose less rapidly than the prices of products."

Even the money wages are now being ruthlessly cut while the prices of commodities fluctuate with the average remaining at a high level.

The average wages of female workers in the various industries in 1919, as compiled by the *Labor Review*, were:

| Industry and Occupation.      | Average Actual Wages per Week. |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Paper Box Mfg.....            | \$11.05                        |
| Women's Clothing Mfg.....     | 15.95                          |
| Confectionary Mfg.....        | 10.08                          |
| Overall Mfg.....              | 12.06                          |
| Cigar Industry.....           | 15.54                          |
| Men's Clothing Industry.....  | 14.75                          |
| Hosiery and Underwear.....    | 12.98                          |
| Silk Mfg.....                 | 15.29                          |
| Chemicals Mfg.....            | 12.35                          |
| Glass Mfg.....                | 19.38                          |
| Leather Mfg.....              | 13.40                          |
| Paper and Pulp.....           | 13.44                          |
| Pottery Mfg.....              | 13.37                          |
| Rubber Mfg.....               | 14.95                          |
| Automobile Mfg.....           | 16.98                          |
| Electrical Apparatus Mfg..... | 15.30                          |
| Foundry Mfg.....              | 12.66                          |
| Machine Mfg.....              | 12.90                          |
| Machine Tool Mfg.....         | 16.62                          |
| Typewriter Mfg.....           | 14.67                          |

It will be noted that in those industries in which women are employed in greater numbers than are men the wages are the lowest. In the factories where heavier work is required of women—in fact, in many instances work formerly done by men—wages paid to female laborers is way below that paid to men doing the same work.

According to the Industrial Welfare Commission of Texas, 2,028 women in 40 cities in the state of Texas in 1920 were receiving for their labor less than was actually needed to maintain themselves decently.

In the Chicago department stores the highest wages were \$16.00 per week, on the average, with 1 per cent commission. Then, as was the general policy of employers, the wages of the girls were cut to \$14.00 per week; the slashing went on until (in spite of the high prices demanded for the bare necessities of life) sales-girls, stock-room girls, and other young female workers in the big department stores in Chicago average \$12.00. Cutting has not stopped. Some women who have worked for the large concerns for 25 years receive from \$16.00 to \$18.00. Many of these women have from one to five children to support. Even the lunch-time was cut from one hour to 45 minutes. To the bosses this is as good as a money cut as it increases the amount of labor received for the pay. To the girls this is a factor in the destruction of their health. In one store, for instance, wraps are kept on the 10th floor. The forty-five minutes are used by the girls in getting their coats and hats and re-placing them after a bolted meal.

The work itself is proverbly unpleasant and dreary. With a host of petty officials of the meanest type at her back, the life of the salesgirl is a miserable one at best.



Rupert Clews aptly expresses it in the July 14, 1922, issue of the *Voice of Labor*:

"Standing hour after hour behind a counter, not allowed to sit down even for an instant, though no shoppers are present, not allowed to exchange a word with a companion—this is the petty tyranny of those unfortunate enough to have to seek a living by entering the greedy maw of the Department Store octopus. Nor are the most brutal tyrants those highest up. Man's inhumanity to woman is shown by the insignificant floormen, getting \$18.00 to \$25.00 a week, who demonstrate their superiority by lording it over their subjects. Woman's inhumanity to woman leads to the height of refined torture, being under the watchful eye of the buyer in one's department every minute of the livelong day. Stay away a day, come a minute late—and before you can open your mouth to explain—downs falls upon your humiliated head a bucket of indignant reproach."

The cost of living in 1919 was 90 per cent more than it was in 1913. Clothing, one of the predominant items for girls, had risen from 1913 to 1919 125 per cent. Wages crawled up. When the cost of living perceptibly began to drop from 10 to 20 percent in 1920, wages were slashed out of all proportion to the cost of living.

Employers of young girls in their endeavors to get cheap labor, are particularly interested in securing female workers who live with their families. They know that many children are sent to work to help out in their own support to make up the deficit in the wages of the parents. They also take advantage of the fact that the girls living with their parents can live cheaper than those workers who are dependent upon themselves. By getting this type of workers, the money necessary to maintain a decent standard of living is not even thought of by the employers. Wages are based on what the girl will take. The parents might not be getting quite enough to support their family—a few dollars more would just about make up for the bare necessities which their present income forbids them. The daughter has reached the legal age, and she is sent out to look for a job.

The newspapers are filled with advertisements such as the one herewith, which was taken from one of the largest newspapers in Chicago:

**GIRLS—STATE STREET STORE NEEDS SEVERAL**  
salesladies to receive training to later become department heads; prefer girls who live at home; experience not necessary. Apply——.

Quackery such as the foregoing, is used to secure girls to work for less money than the employer knows is necessary to maintain any sort of living standard. Of course, the girls take the job sometimes with the illusion that they have the ability, and hence might some day become department heads; others, probably with a little more experience, know that they are doomed to a monotonous, underpaid job for the rest of their life, and look to marriage as their only avenue of escape. That marriage of wage-slave to wage-slave does not solve but makes worse the problem of low wages or prostitution is plain from numerous court and police records, as well as the increasing number of fathers who, unable to support their families, commit suicide.

While working, the girls are at the mercy of their petty foremen, managers, the owner's son, or even the owner himself. "If the master is mean enough," says Engels, "... his mill is his harem; and the fact that not all manufacturers use their power, does not in the least change the position of the girls." That the bosses do use their power is too eloquently told even in

the capitalist newspapers to need elaboration here. Sometimes our most respectable (?) citizens are involved.

Those who control industry today wield a power over the womanhood of the working class much like the prerogative of the feudal lord over the daughters of the serfs.

The theologian will tell you that prostitution is incurable in this world of sin; the psychologist and the whole ring of soothsaying sociologists will agree that it is a condition of the mind. Can't change human nature, don't you know. But he who has analyzed prostitution communistically will point to the main cause for this disease of society. Prostitution has not always existed. It can be done away with; it will be done away with.

The first step is the destruction of the capitalist system of society. That is a vitally necessary step. Without it there is no hope. So long as capitalism exists, so long will prostitution prosper and expand. Clarence S. Darrow, prominent criminal lawyer in this country, has spent many years of his life studying criminals, prostitutes and their surroundings. He says: "Even the prostitute who plies her trade for the love of the trade, and the criminal who loves crime (if any such there be) have come to their present place through years of misfortune or hard environment, and would surely disappear under fairer conditions and with anything like a decent chance."

Only a society governed by the workers, a society where one class does not oppress another and exploit it for profit, a society where commodities are produced for use and not for sale, in short, a communist form of society will offer the millions upon millions of working class boys and girls "anything like a decent chance."

## HELP DEFEND THE LABOR MILITANTS

### Young Workers!

You know about the frame-up against the Labor Militants in Michigan, how these men were thrown into jail—many of them are still behind bars because of the excessive bail fixed by the court.

Men like Wm. Z. Foster, Wm. F. Dunn, Earl Browder, C. E. Ruthenberg and many others who have spent a great portion of their lives fighting for the working class will be railroaded to jail if the workers do not call a halt. Several members of the Young Workers League were the victims of the Burns drag-net.

The case is now in the courts. Funds are needed for bail, for defense and for propaganda to acquaint the workers everywhere with the facts of the frame-up. Send your assessments in to the national office. Contribute to the Labor Defense Council, 166 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois.

# "Once Upon A Time."

By M. L.

**A**ND so, my son, with bursts of oratory, the blare of trumpets, and the blazing of torches, the great campaign against "the menace of radicalism in America" was launched. Such organizations as the American Legion, the Salvation Army, various sorts of Daughters and sons, grandsons and granddaughters, etc., etc., etc., of the revolution, their lickspittles and bootlickers and the other thousand and one odds and ends of those who at that time hung on to the coat-tails of capitalist society, partook of its dung or served as tools to poison the minds of either the youth of their elders, all celebrated, glorified at the organization at last of the solid UNITED FRONT OF THE WHITE GUARD OF AMERICA. They got drunk in ecstatic self glorification—they were in the tenth heaven of ecstasy. Here at last was an organization which would unitedly crush out any attempt to better organize the working class. Here was an organization which, with its tentacles reaching into the cast school system of the country (controlling through fear or through directly held power) could crush the least attempt to tell the truth to the children of the working class. Here was an organization which could act as a vast strike-breaking agency in the event of a strike or could pillage and burn the press of the workers or their lyceums, lynch class conscious leaders of the workers in case the necessity arose.

And indeed some of the organizations in the UNITED FRONT OF THE WHITE GUARD OF AMERICA were not novices. Had not the American Legion had experience at lynching labor leaders, sending out strike-breakers and breaking up meetings of workers? Even the liberals of the day came out in open revolt against its actions, and in the year of 1921, one of their papers, the Nation, published their exploits in detail. Then the Salvation Army with its imitation of military cast, its begging in the name of charity and its promises of salvation in heaven, if but the sinner would turn good and serve God. To serve God, its God, meant to serve as a lickspittle of capitalism. It taught humility and service. Humility to the master class, service to them in the way of acting as meek scabs and strike-breakers. The American Sentinels, an organization built to fight radicalism among the young—an organization really to convince the young that it was pleasing to be a slave, that the darkness of the mine and the misery of the hovel was its heritage.

And so you see, my child, what a happy month it was for the masters of America, that month of November in the year 1922. What, my child, you look horror stricken. You are going to ask me the same question that your brother did when I told him the story of how this organization was organized at that time and how it began to function. You are going to burst out and ask, "But Dad, my God, were the workers dead; did they not have their eyes open; did they not rise in their mighty strength and organize a United Front of their own such as would wipe every vantage of exploitation from the face of the earth together with the outrageous UNITED FRONT OF THE WHITE GUARD? Did not the workers consist of the overwhelming majority of the nation?"

Ah, my child, I see that in your eyes; I see your

anger rise, your eyes flash. Your resentment has been aroused. You live in another day. But at that time, the organization of their own United Front against the UNITED FRONT OF THE WHITE GUARD had just begun to dawn upon the workers—and they were slow, ah, so slow in realizing the grave situation they were facing. It must be said, however, that slow as it was, it was the first real encouraging sign in the twentieth century, that the workers were beginning to wake out of their deep slumber of the past and realize that they had a common interest. This brings me to another matter.

All the while, during the time I have been telling you about, capitalism was not asleep. Industries developed and became solidified. Whole industries were solidly knit together under the control of single corporations or small groups of them which in turn often held solid grip on kindred or related industries. Capitalist industry had become thoroughly integrated. Yet the old form of the organizations of the workers, the unions, still existed. While the employers attacked unitedly, the workers were divided into thousand divers groups fighting each other often, embroiled many times in petty jurisdictional disputes, scabbing on one another in cases here and there where there was some conflict. There was a crying need for change.

All this time the most class conscious of the workers had been spreading their message throughout the land. And at last due to their efforts and the open attack of the masters which was becoming plain to the dullest of minds, the idea of amalgamation of the unions began to dawn upon the workers and rank and file of the unions of the land, especially the railroad workers began rallying to its support. For the railroad workers were going through a strike which showed the futility of the old craft unions. While one group of unions, the shop men were on strike, the other groups of unions, the maintenance of way and trainmen were at work. This was such obvious weakness that it was impossible to deny the necessity of amalgamation, of a united front.

It seemed as if the working class were on its way, though going yet slowly, very slowly. And it is significant, my son, that just at this time, the organization of which I told you at the beginning, the organization of the UNITED FRONT OF THE WHITE GUARD was born. Not a move was made by the working class but that a countermove almost twice as effective was made by the master class or its tools. The crying need, you say, my boy, ah, what a crying need there was for those of young blood to go out and stir their fellow workers to action, to help wake them up, to inspire them with the necessity for the solidarity of the workers against their masters. The UNITED FRONT OF THE WORKERS, what an inspiration as against the United Front of the masters. The workers, on to victory, not divided, split asunder into a million divers parts by marching in single solid array, undivided, with a common inspiration with a common goal, that of the doing away with their slavery and the building of what we have to-day, my boy, free men and women with no bloody masters lashing them on to make profits for them. But of that another day.

(Continued from page 2.)

Russia and the Russian-American Corporation are to the Russian workers gleaming shafts of light protruding from a cloudy sky. They say to the orphans of the working class in Russia: "We have not forgotten the sacrifices of your fathers and mothers."

## REVIEWING THE RANKS

IN a pamphlet just issued, the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International reviews the growth of Communist youth organizations since the close of the Second Congress. At the Second Congress, the report of the Executive showed that there were over 800,000 members belonging to organizations affiliated with the Young Communist International. The report for the Third Congress, recently concluded, shows that the Young Communist International now has 760,000 members in its various sections. How account for this seeming loss in strength? The fact of the matter is there has not been a loss.

At the Second Congress, just as at the first national convention of the Young Workers League, the various affiliated sections in many parts of the world had not been organized upon a solid basis, and reports of membership were in many instances estimates. The Third Congress was very strict in this respect. The E. C. demanded facts long before the calling of the Congress, and compiled its data from reliable reports; also, international dues stamps have been issued to the Young Communist Leagues, which again offers a means of accurate count. Then, points out the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International, there are organizations with a total membership throughout the world of over 150,000, who, though not directly affiliated with Y. C. I., cooperate very closely with it, and look to it for guidance on the international field. Among these are counted the Young Workers League of America, the Young Workers League of Canada, similar organizations in Finland, Czechoslovakia, and elsewhere.

Some Y. C. I.'s have been forced into an illegal existence. With the fascists in Italy in power, the Communist Party has been forced underground in some places; likewise, the Young Communist League must function underground in those sections or be exterminated. The Czechoslovakian government has repeatedly made efforts at dispersing the Y. C. I. in that country, thus thrusting it into an illegal existence. In America, since its organization, the Young Communist League has been an underground organization.

A Young Communist League has been organized in Ireland. The young workers and peasants of the near and far east have been particularly active in organizing under the banner of the Young Communist International. Live organizations are now in existence in Korea, China, Japan, India and many other oriental countries.

The influence of the Communist youth organizations, according to a graphic map of the globe issued by the E. C. of the Y. C. I., covers practically every part of the inhabited world and is particularly intense in industrially advanced nations.

IT is common knowledge that the capitalists control the schools. Certainly the institutions in which the 27 million pupils are enrolled teach plenty of patriotism and "Americanism." The churches are no slackers in guiding the youth of the nation in "proper paths." The boy scouts still flourish. Has not the American Legion specifically set itself the task of standing vigilance over the writers of history text books to see that no anti-Americanism is included? And the press still is for patriotism right or wrong. Then why the formation of so

many new organizations to safe-guard the teaching of patriotism and Americanism?

The American Sentinels, the first to take the field for the protection of patriotism, was born in Chicago amid the smashing of dishes and cheap oratory. The purpose announced by these melodramatists is the teaching and training of the youth against radicalism. Is the American youth inherently radical? Then comes the Daughters of the American Revolution (!) and a whole raft of other organizations who are very much interested in capitalism and declare that their combined six million members are pledged to the propagation of Americanism and loyalty to American principles.

It is significant to note that the teaching of patriotism centers itself about the youth. Even though the capitalists in this country own practically every means of dissemination of information—the press, schools, radios—yet so jealous are they of control over the mind of the youth that when that control is the least threatened, a call to arms is issued to fight radicalism.

"Men fear thought as they fear nothing else on earth—more than ruin, more even than death, thought is subversive and revolutionary, destructive and terrible. Thought is merciless to privilege, established institutions, and comfortable habits. Thought is anarchic and lawless—indifferent to authority. Careless of the well-tried wisdom of the ages. Thought looks into the pit of HELL and is not afraid. It sees Man, a feeble speck, surrounded by the unfathomable depths of silence. Yet it bears itself proudly, as unmoved as if it were Lord of the Universe. Thought is Great and Swift and Free—the Light of the World, and the chief glory of MAN."—Bertrand Russell.

## The Labor Herald

A Constructive, Militant Monthly  
Labor Magazine

Edited by

WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

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Official Organ of the

Trade Union Educational League

118 N. La Salle St.

Chicago

# TO THE YOUTH OF AMERICA SOVIET RUSSIA SPEAKS!

And the One Word It Utters:

## “Orphans”

**ANOTHER CALL FOR RELIEF** goes out to you from Soviet Russia.

**THE CUMULATIVE CATASTROPHES** that have assailed this workers' republic—war, blockade, famine—have left hundreds of thousands of children homeless, starving, in broken health.

**FATHERS WHO WENT TO DEFEND** the Soviet Government against the Kolchaks, Denikins and Wrangels never returned.

**AND THEN CAME THE FAMINE**, and parents, giving the last crust of bread to their children, went in search of food and never returned.

**THE PROBLEM THIS HAS CREATED IN RUSSIA IS COLOSSAL!** Hundreds of thousands of the coming generation, our own young generation, future heritors of the Russian Revolution, are threatened with extinction.

**THE WALL STREETS OF THIS WORLD DON'T CARE!** Billionaires and millionaires look on and shrug their shoulders. Soviet Russia is their foe.

**BUT WE, AMERICAN YOUTH, AND FRIENDS OF SOVIET RUSSIA, DO CARE!** Upon us rests a heavy responsibility. Soviet Russia must live. It is an outpost in the world-wide battle of the workers for freedom.

**IF SOVIET RUSSIA IS TO LIVE, ITS CHILDREN MUST LIVE.** Its rising generation must be safeguarded. The child of today is the young workers, the young revolutionist, of tomorrow.

**WE, YOUTH OF AMERICA,** must constitute ourselves the “big brothers” and “grown-up sisters” of these helpless Russian orphans. We must provide food and homes and loving care for them exactly as we would for our blood kin here, were they left similarly destitute. For

they are our blood kin, their parents sealed the compact when they gave their lives for Soviet Russia, we cannot, we will not fail in our duty.

**TO THIS TASK WE ASK YOU TO GIVE TIME AND MONEY.** First: Adopt an orphan yourself. Second: Get other individuals and families to adopt an orphan. Third: Get your labor union, your fraternal, social, benefit organization to adopt a group of orphans. To work at once.

**POOR, LONESOME, HUNGRY LITTLE CHILDREN PLEAD WITH YOU FOR COMFORTING ARMS AND A BITE TO EAT—YOUR DOLLARS WILL WORK WONDERS, AND WE PLEAD WITH YOU TO PUT YOUR DOLLARS TO WORK IN THIS GREAT CAUSE!**

**PLAN:** Soviet Russia will give the buildings for Children's Homes. In many cases these buildings will be the homes of the former nobility. Soviet Russia is helping mightily. Hundreds of homes are already in operation. But Soviet Russia needs help. The plan is to outfit homes to contain one hundred children each. Ten such homes will constitute a children's colony. Each colony will have one hospital. The cost per child to outfit homes is \$5.00. The maintenance cost per child is \$2.00 per month.

**SEND IN YOUR CONTRIBUTION** on the blank provided below. Get as many of your friends to do likewise. Then, for the collection of smaller amounts, send at once for the “Russian Orphans Fund Coupon Book.” It is a handy book of coupons, each coupon represents a dime, each dime a day's food for a hungry child.

**HELP ALL YOU CAN! GIVE ALL YOU CAN!**  
**AMERICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**  
**SUFFERING CHILDREN!**

**FRIENDS OF SOVIET RUSSIA,**  
201 West 13th Street, New York City.

Enclosed find the sum of \$..... to be used to equip homes for Russian orphans. I promise to pay the sum of \$..... per month for their care.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... (11-7-22)

## THE FRIENDS OF SOVIET RUSSIA

201 West 13th Street  
New York City