

The Woman Worker -

RALLY TO THE BANNER OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE

ISSUED ONCE A MONTH BY THE
MILITANT WOMEN'S MOVEMENT OF AUSTRALIA.

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Editorial.

We all know it is pretty hard to keep up one's courage and spirits when there is not enough coming in to meet the everyday expenses of the house. That is why so many of the women whose husbands and sons are locked out in the timber industry are worrying as to why this condition should exist. Many are grumbling at their men for not going back to work, forgetting that they are only able to do so at present by accepting longer hours per week and greatly reduced wages.

It must also be remembered that if the men were beaten in this fight to maintain their conditions, that the wages of practically every worker would come down. Not only that, the extra four hours worked each week would mean the sacking of about 300 timber workers in the Sydney district. The increase in the number of boys working in the timber yards might increase the amount of money coming into some houses where there was a family of grown boys, but it would also mean the putting out of work of a considerable number of men.

All of this unemployment, and the distress which is caused among the workers because of it, does not arise, as the boss's papers would have you think, because of union control or because men do not work fast enough. Unemployment arises because the workers in every industry produce so much more than can be sold.

If you stop to think for a minute you will realise that if all the wages received by the workers amounts to 37 million pounds in a year and the value or price of that which they produce in the works and factories amounts to 70 million pounds, there is 33 million pounds worth of stuff more than they can buy.

This was actually the case in N.S.W. in 1928 in the manufacturing industries. The same thing is taking place in every form of industry so you can see that there is a huge surplus over and above what the workers receive as wages.

The bigger this surplus becomes, the keener the competition between the bosses who are the owners of it. When the competition becomes too keen, they try to speed up the workers or else put in new machines which will do away with adult workers and employ boys instead.

That is what has happened in the timber industry. The workers have produced more than can be sold. Building workers and metal workers as well as timber workers. This has happened all over the world.

The competition between the timber companies has become so keen that they want to speed up the workers, work them longer hours, and at the same time cut their wages.

If the workers were prepared to agree to this, the conditions of all the workers would become incredibly worse. Unemployment would increase, the surplus owned by the bosses would become greater, and this would be followed by more wage cuts and more strikes and lockouts.

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WITH THE WIVES OF THE TIMBER WORKERS.

Adela's Industrial Peace Meeting.

The attempt of the employers, with the aid of Adela Walsh - traitor to the workers - to influence the women to urge their men back to work, met with the rebuff it deserved.

The meeting of the Industrial Peace Union (of which Adela is organiser), called for 'women only' to protest against strikes and lock outs - T.W. wives being invited to attend (their addresses were supplied by the bosses) - in the words of the "S.M.H." 'eclipsed any as a demonstration of class hostility'.

The T.W. wives, organised by the M.W.G. and the T.W.U. packed the meeting and left no doubt in the minds of those tools of the bosses that they were behind their men in resisting the attack of the bosses.

Adela was heard to remark that she would call no more meetings of strikers' wives - we're sure she won't!

Several T.W. wives and other workers were fined 10s. and costs recently for collecting for relief of distress among the families of T.W.

A protest meeting of women involved in the struggle was afterwards held in Hyde Park, against this further attempt of the employers, per medium of their agents - the Court and judiciary - to break the solidarity of the workers. Lunch was provided by the M.W.G. prior to weekly business meeting held that same day.

Editorial (Contd. from page 1).

Don't you realise that the only way out of this vicious circle is by the workers receiving as much as the value of the things they produce. Then when the workers had produced too much, or more than was needed at the time, they could take a rest until it was used up.

There would be no hardship for the workers would then be enjoying the fruits of their labor whilst they were working.

As it is now the workers are simply thrown out of work and left to starve while the boss takes a holiday and enjoys the fruits of the workers' labor.

In order to change this we must organise together with the men to get rid of capitalists and capitalism and bring about the WORKERS' CONTROL OF INDUSTRY AND OF THE THINGS WHICH ARE PRODUCED.

CESSNOCK M.W.G. meets at 3 p.m. SATURDAY, in the SCHOOL OR ARTS.

MELBOURNE.

The meetings of Timber workers' wives organised by the M.W.G. are still held every Tuesday. Very fine collecting work is being done.

A splendid march took place on Eight Hour Day, the T.W. wives demonstrating their solidarity with their men by marching along with them. Members of the M.W.G. assisted to make it an effective protest against Judge Lukin's Award.

The President and Secretary of the Group, at the invitation of the Sec. of the T.W.U. addressed meetings at Geelong and Erica, and good contact is being made with women in these outlying districts.

A dance will be held on the 13th April, proceeds to go the T.W.

Com. Mrs. Barker was charged at Malvern Court with using "insulting language". She was one of those who went to assist in picketing a timber yard, and was served with a summons when appearing as a witness for the others who were arrested at the time. The sentence was 14 days or £3 fine. She will not pay the fine.

SYDNEY. Relief Committees.

A dance was held in Newtown, one is being arranged for Bankstown, and a concert in Glebe. The Central committee is arranging a concert for April 17th, to be held in the Trades Hall. Proceeds from those functions to go to the T.W.

Other Activities.

The debate between Sydney M.W.G. - Coms. Isaacs & Nelson, speakers - and the W.E.A. affirming "That women should be debarred from political activity", concluded by the M.W.G. speakers proving that women are vitally concerned in the political life of the community and their active participation is necessary.

Another Group will probably be formed at Wollongong in the near future as the result of a visit of one of our organisers.

A very successful picnic was held at Parsley Bay on Easter Monday under the auspices of Sydney Group. Social contact of this character should be encouraged by all groups.

Militant Women's Group meetings are held

In the Trades Hall, SYDNEY on MONDAY night at 8 p.m.

At 217 Russell St., MELBOURNE on WEDNESDAY.

In Trades Hall, BRISBANE, THURSDAY.