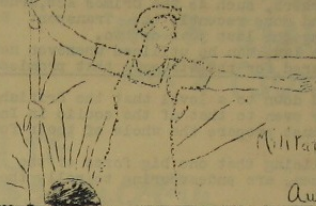


RALLY TO THE  
BANNER OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE

# THE Woman Worker



STATE LIBRARY  
16 JAN 1937  
OR VICTORIA

ISSUED MONTHLY

By The  
Militant Women's Movement  
of  
Australia

SLTF  
33146994  
W84M

NO. 1 VOL. 1.

7th November, 1928.

ON this day, 7th November, when toilers all over the world are celebrating the 11th ANNIVERSARY of the FIRST WORKERS' REPUBLIC of SOVIET RUSSIA, it is well to recall to mind the significance of the Russian Revolution generally, and especially as regards the women of the Working class.

How has the Russian Revolution affected the status of working class women? In Soviet Russia the women have been emancipated politically, economically and culturally. In the old Russia which had always been cited in terms of horror, where the toiling masses had lived through a Hell on earth, the lot of the working and peasant women was that of a doubly enslaved and exploited creature.

In the new Russia, where the working class is the ruling class, the women of the working class has been freed from her shackles and has emerged into the new life which has broken with all the traditions, prejudices and lies that belonged to capitalist society. In Soviet Russia, woman, for the first time in history, is found taking active part in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the new proletarian State. We find her in the Soviets (government councils) in the economic administration, in the schools and universities, and in all social organs of the U.S.S.R.

We find her in the process of shedding the remnants of darkness, ignorance, apathy and the bitterness born of hopelessness, and taking on the new role of a co-partner, a co-builder of the new social order, side by side with the men.

How about women in the rest of the world? What is the position of woman in the "advanced" capitalist countries? And what is the lot of the millions of working or peasant women in the colonial and semi-colonial countries?

In China, India and in the other countries oppressed by imperialism, woman's position is lower even than that of a slave. She is non-existent politically, she is frightfully exploited economically, she has no standing socially, she is isolated culturally. Read the reports on labor conditions, especially as regards women in China, India, etc. Fivepence a day, no Sunday, no holiday, giving birth to child at the loom in the textile mill or in the hell of the match factory! .... such is her lot.

And the working woman in our "civilised" capitalist countries? Here she is still the "second-rate" citizen. If she is not the slave of the boss (who exploits her at half the wage paid to men for the same work) she is the slave of the so-called "home" where she bears the brunt of the economic dependence of the male "supporter" on capitalism. Unemployment, starvation, the burden of rearing and educating children, etc. --- all this is the lot of the working class woman.

(Continued on Page 2).

### WHY A MILITANT WOMEN'S MOVEMENT?

The attack of the capitalist class the world over on the wages and conditions of the workers is becoming more evident in this so-called "sunny" Australia. The recent Beby Award resulting in the Waterside dispute, the threatened reduction of 12/- in the basic wage, and the proposed reduction in the miners' wages, etc. clearly demonstrate this attack.

Repressive measures against the workers, such as the Crimes Act, Bruce's Amendments to the Arbitration Act, and more recently the Transport Workers' Act, have been introduced during the last year or two.

These Regulations now having become law, can be utilised whenever necessary by the bosses; they are prepared for the struggle that promises to be a very bitter one.

To prevent themselves being crushed down to a level that the British and European workers have reached, or even to that of the coolie in India and China, the workers of Australia must prepare the whole of their forces to meet the attack of the bosses.

The Militant Women's Movement, realising that one big force of the workers - half their number - are women, are endeavouring to rally those women into the working class movement.

Women in the "home" bear the brunt of a reduction in the men's wages - endeavouring to feed and clothe themselves and their children on less than the already inadequate wage; women and girls in industry receiving only about half the wage obtained by men, although many of them are doing men's work MUST ASSIST ALONG WITH THEIR MENFOLK in the fight that the bosses are so well prepared for and are forcing upon the workers in order that their profits can still be maintained.

Join the MILITANT WOMEN'S MOVEMENT and learn to assist efficiently in the everyday struggles that you are called upon to face, and to take your part in the bigger fight for the EMANCIPATION OF THE WORKING CLASS.

### Editorial (Contd from Page 1)

Only the overthrow of capitalism, the shattering of the whole foundation on which it rests, will free woman from her present position. Only the victorious working class, after capitalism is defeated (as completely as in Russia) can and will raise woman to political, economic and social equality with men.

For this end, the women of the working class must work hand in hand with the class conscious vanguard of the men workers. That is the purpose and meaning of the Militant Women's Groups established in various centres of Australia. Our slogan for women is: INTO THE CLASS STRUGGLE. We are members of the working class, we are exploited by the master class, we and our children suffer doubly from wage cuts and increased living costs, we are attacked, we must fight - not a sex war but the CLASS WAR. A United front with the men comrades against the boss! A United front for the overthrow of the system!

We stand for GOOD CONDITIONS not peaceful and friendly relations with the boss.

To get GOOD CONDITIONS WE often have to disturb friendly relations.

### DEATH TO THE PEACE IN INDUSTRY UNION!

#### A Story of Treachery.

Once upon a time there were two fighters for the working class - Tom and Adela Walsh. Tom was nearly deported from Australia for his activities while Adela addressed huge crowds in an appeal to British miners on strike.

But one day this pair found they could make more money by lying to the workers and attempting to cripple trade unions. This discovery turned them into rats. They got in touch with an English rat called Havelock Wilson who got support, both financially and "spiritually," from English capitalists and the Aussie rats at once began to organise a Peace in Industry Union which aims at making the workers passive slaves of the boss.

Adela is now attempting to gain support from the women for her scab outfit. Women of the working class must fight Adela and the Peace in Industry Union to the death - that is, if they do not want to see lowered the workers' conditions and our standard of living.

DEMAND:  
Free Meals in School for  
Workers' Children!

### FINE EXAMPLE OF SOLIDARITY. BY GIRLS AT BERDRIAU'S.

The splendid display of solidarity shown by the 200 to 300 girls involved in the recent dispute at Berdriau's Rubber Works is well worthy of note.

A verbal agreement had been made with the Secretary of the Union about 6 months ago that the heavy shoes should be distributed as equally as possible. The lasts for these shoes are very heavy and although paid 9d. per dozen extra for this work, by the time the end of the week comes the girls on this work are played out.

Some 37 girls refused to work and sat still at their benches for 3 days because they were of the opinion that as only four days had elapsed since being on that work and their turn was not due. They were then dismissed.

Over 200 girls in the Dept. immediately refused to work, adopting the same policy of sitting still at their benches. This continued for a week when the management paid the lot off.

They refused to go back to work until the other 37 girls were reinstated and at the end of another week, the management complied with their request, reserving the right however, to increase the number of heavy shoes if necessary as orders for same were greatly in excess of lighter ones.

The display of solidarity is encouraging to the Militant Women's Movement and shows what can be accomplished by women and girls when they remember that UNITY IS STRENGTH.

### THE WOMEN OF THE COALFIELDS.

The struggle which is looming in the mining industry will call upon the women in the coalfields to demonstrate their solidarity in assisting the miners to prevent the threatened reduction in their living standard.

The miners' wives in St. Britain and in America showed unknown depths of courage and resourcefulness in procuring food for their families, through the Boards of Guardians, establishing soup kitchens, and other organised forms of relief.

This attack upon the miners here is the tail end of the world-wide onslaught in the mining industry and it has lost none of its force.

Therefore, the women in the coalfields will be called upon to display the same courage and resourcefulness as the miners' wives in other countries. The Cessnock Group has given a good lead on several occasions and is paving the way for solidarity among the miners' wives.

### CHILD WORKERS AT GRACE BROS.

There are few capitalist outfits in Australia with such a notorious name of being a sweat-shop as the big Broadway Emporium in Sydney called Grace Bros.

A large proportion of the wage-slaves are between the ages of 14 and 17, the wages being from 11/4 to 25/- per week! Having been sapped of their youth and vitality after a few years, they are pitched out when they become seniors.

The shop is extremely hot and dusty - the toilet rooms and lavatories are a disgrace - in the main building there is no luncheon room - and the girls have to adjourn to the public cafeteria or to a small room in the furniture building.

The "Labor Daily" recently reported on the inhuman conditions in the blind-making workroom and also on the efforts made by the firm to FIND OUT WHAT GIRLS (IF ANY) WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE CONDITIONS. The girls were asked to sign a paper to the effect that conditions were NOT as outlined in the paper. They should have refused to sign, but owing to lack of organisation there was no solidarity displayed.

If the girls wish to do any shopping, they have to get permission, to have the time of departure from the counter marked and the time of return. The shopping they do is recorded and no discount is given (unlike most firms).

The goods for the shop are carried from the bulk stores at the back of the building in clothes baskets by young girls. These baskets are heavy and awkward and have often torn the stockings of the lumber-slaves and blistered their hands.

Large trucks are used to convey goods to the bulk room - young girls also do this work and have to come into work an hour earlier for this purpose and leave an hour earlier at night. The reason is that the trucks interfere with the shoppers and on one occasion a shopper was knocked with one. So truck-wheeling in shopping hours was stopped.

When getting a job in this den, the employee must state if she belongs to a union and must promise on oath that she will report to the management immediately any action of an employee that may be detrimental to the firm.

The Sydney Militant Women's group is willing to assist the Shop Assistants' Union to organise these girls and attempting to get their conditions improved.

We urge the employees at Grace Bros. to get into the Union.

THE MILITANT WOMEN'S MOVEMENT AND THE  
WATERSIDE DISPUTE.

## BRISBANE GROUP:

The Brisbane Group was just formed and getting on its feet when the Waterside Dispute occurred. Events were closely watched and when it became evident that the struggle was likely to be long and grim we decided to offer our assistance to our fellow workers. To this end a letter was sent to the Disputes Committee pledging our support and offering to rally the women folk to a mass meeting, to explain the position to them. Our offer of assistance was gladly accepted and our organiser and president were asked to take positions on the Distress Committee, which they did.

The Group arranged for the mass meeting of women; had it announced at the men's meetings and also advertised it by means of leaflets, hundreds of which were distributed among the men who were asked to take them to their wives and daughters. The result of this propaganda was a well-attended and enthusiastic meeting from which a Women's Committee was formed with two Group members at its head. This Committee then arranged a visiting team to go to homes where it was known that there was sickness or young children, the visitors to report back to the committee which then used the means within its power to relieve any distress that prevailed.

An appeal was sent out through the columns of the "Daily Standard" and a quantity of clothing was received. Several comrades sent eggs, a gross of condensed milk was supplied by a business house, a number of tins of lactogen were donated by a fellow worker, and a comrade who sells fruit for his living was generous with his stock.

=====

=====

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK!

=====

## GROUP NOTICES.

## BRISBANE:

Business Meeting and Study Class  
Every THURSDAY at 8 p.m. in the  
TRADES HALL.

## CESSNOCK:

Business Meeting and Study Class  
SATURDAY AFTERNOONS at 3 p.m. in  
the SCHOOL OF ARTS.

## MELBOURNE:

Business meeting and Study Class  
WEDNESDAY 8 p.m. 217 Russell St.  
SYDNEY: MONDAYS, Trades Hall at 8

In addition to handing out these donations, it was arranged with the Distress Committee that families should be supplied with extra rations when the Women's Committee sent a recommendation.

A mass meeting was held once a week and reports of the Committee's activities given. The women helped to raise money for the Distress Fund by holding functions, collecting at work shops, meetings, etc.

The outstanding feature about the dispute was the solidarity of the men here in Brisbane - assisted by the solidarity of the women. The wives of the wharfies proved themselves fine fighters.

From our experience in this fight we hope to improve our organisation and to take a greater part in future struggles.

--- 0o0 ---

## MELBOURNE GROUP:

The Melbourne Group were also able to demonstrate the necessity of women partaking actively in struggles and the value of the womenfolk in these struggles.

The Melbourne Group took part in all demonstrations and held a separate meeting on the Yarra Bank for Women with much success.

A special meeting of working class women together with wives of wharfies was held in Russell street and the position outlined. Every opportunity was taken to put the real truth of the issue before the women who were suffering because of the master class attacks.

--- 0o0 ---

The SYDNEY Group offered assistance to the Watersiders right from the beginning; the correspondence was ignored. There was no display of fight or solidarity on the part of the Union.

SEND Your News to

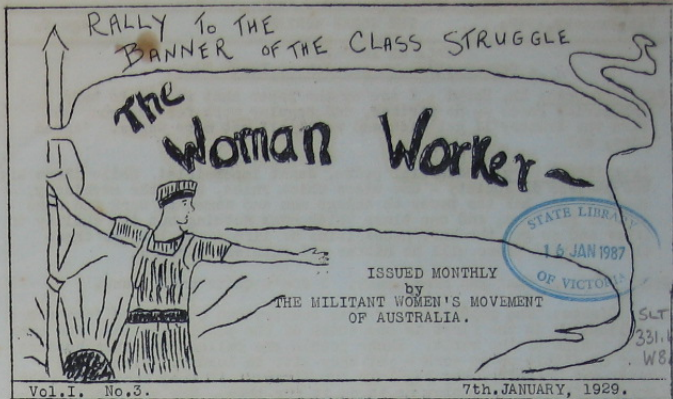
"The Woman Worker",  
Militant Women's Movement,  
Trades Hall, SYDNEY.

HELD OVER:

Articles submitted by Cessnock Group and Mrs. L. Warner have been held over until next issue owing to lack of space.

-----

DON'T FORGET TO HAVE YOUR NEWS IN  
EARLY FOR NEXT ISSUE.



PEACE IN INDUSTRY.  
A Conversation on the Job at Lunch Time.

**Ignorant Jean:** Eh, Mary! - I see by the paper that we are to have Industrial Peace -- no strikes, and regular work for everyone and when the country'll get rich and we'll all get more wages. 's good idea, eh?

**Intelligent Mary:** Industrial peace, Jean! Impossible! While there are two classes in society - one class which rules, owns the machinery, the land and has the power to engage men and women to work and make profits for them, and one class which owns nothing but its ability to labor and so get the bare necessities of life -- so long as these classes exist there will be bitter and ruthless warfare.

**Jean:** Tell us what you mean, Mary. I don't quite understand.

**Mary:** Right. The population of this country can be divided into two sections -- in the first is one tenth of the people and this few owns nine tenths of the world. These people are called parasites because they do little or no work - yet they live in luxury. With their money and property they regulate our lives -- if they choose to make more profits, they employ us to do it for them. Now you and I are shop girls, you being 16 get a pound a week wages and if you hadn't had ten months experience you would only be getting 16/-. Yet the people that own this shop made enormous profits last year without doing a stroke of work. Fair go, isn't it?

**Jean:** It does seem funny when you think of it like that.

**Mary:** The members of our class have to work under rotten conditions, losing their health and energy through working in all weathers outside, in heated, noisy, badly ventilated factories and shops. Think how our backs ache on Friday nights after twelve hours in this prison! And we are supposed to be well off! And what do we get out of it? Enough to buy the bare necessities, no fine homes, no motor cars, no good clothes or theatres for us.

**Jean:** Too true. But what can be done? I thought industrial peace would make things better.

**Mary:** You've got another think coming then. This is what industrial peace means -- I'll set it out like a bill. Got a piece of paper? Good. Now: Dr. to: "Industrial Peace.

1. When conditions become more unbearable, no right to strike to try and make them better.
2. The boss to employ us on what terms he likes -- if we want our trade union to do something for us, it will be squashed by the boss.
3. The boss can wage war on us all the time -- can pay us a pittance and get away with it without fear of any real opposition by us.

**Sum Total:** Industrial Peace means this and only this: The boss is going to fight us, but first of all he wants to blindfold us and handcuff us because we are stronger than him if we only keep together.

**Jean:** I think you're right, Mary. Gee, it's time to get back to the counter but I'd like to hear more about this.

**Mary:** Good-oh, We'll have a yarn to-morrow and I'll bring you a little book called "Industrial Peace" which my brother brought from his union the other night. -----

There are two million unemployed in Great Britain who are trying to exist on the dole. Many of them are dying due to the severe winter.

George Windsor of Buckingham Palace contracted a chill through being in the rain for a few minutes without his hat. There are six doctors in attendance.

## "WOMAN IN SOVIET RUSSIA"

By Jessica Smith. (Extract).  
A peasant woman speaking at a delegation:-

"In the first place, comrade, nothing like this has ever happened before! Think of it - this many women actually getting together and going off on an excursion. The womenfolk here have never even been on a train before! All the year we have been going to classes and meetings. Look at me now, I have even learned to read and write - when I see posters I can make them out for myself, and when a letter comes from my son far away in Siberia, I don't have to go running like a fool to my neighbor! And I'll tell you something else. We are not afraid anymore. That's the main thing. We're not afraid of our husbands. We don't have to ask their permission for everything we do. And since I have been a delegate I don't believe in religion any more - I know what nonsense all this church business is and how they have been fooling us all these years."

## POSITIONS VACANT.

The above heading is a familiar one to the members of our class - underneath it are printed frequently advertisements which give an inkling of the "golden opportunities" which this wonderful country, according to the boss, holds for the workers. Here are two such ads. quoted from an October issue of the "Sydney Morning Herald".

**Wanted:** A trustworthy woman to do an hour's washing-up daily in return for a meal.

Two builders' laborers wanted for concrete mixing, between the ages of 16 and 17. No others need apply.

## LIFE ON THE FARM.

**Soldier's Settlement.**  
Kentucky, N.S.W.  
Things up here are very bad. The orchards in most cases do not provide a living. Many men are forced to go to work away from their orchards or starve, the result being that their orchards are neglected. They then receive 7 days' notice from the fruit inspector to get their orchards sprayed and ploughed. To do this they must either lose time and do it themselves or pay someone to do it for them. Thus are returned soldiers "settled" on the land.

## CHINESE WOMEN RESIST OPPRESSION!

News from Tientsin (China). Chinese women here have organised in order to fight for the following programme of reforms in their conditions:

1. Prohibition of further foot-binding;
2. No more breast-binding and ear-piercing;
3. Abolition of prostitution and no more traffic in girls,
4. Improvement of the conditions of women workers in factories,
5. Employment of women on the staff of different governmental organisations.

This news item shows that our women comrades in the east are becoming active and are contributing something to the growth of the International Women's Movement. In the eastern countries the women have for centuries been treated as chattel slaves. Torture and misery, stupid customs, religious superstitions, etc. have made their status little above animals.

We in Australia rejoice to hear that our comrades are beginning to realise their slavery and are preparing to burst the chains which have enslaved them. We too have our chains to break and it is only by organising for mass action that we will better our conditions.

**Dear Comrade,**

I took my 16 year old daughter out to find her a job last week. She has had the usual "good schooling", having sat for the Commercial Intermediate Examination. It was difficult to get her a job but I at length entered Anthony Horderns (Sydney) with much confidence because I had heard so much about their welfare Dept. for the girls, their humane treatment and conditions, etc. But there is a catch in it of course, and the catch is in the wages. A girl of 16 is entitled to £1 a week. However, if the employee is inexperienced they deduct 20% off wages; that means bringing down the wages to 16/- a week! And the period of "inexperience" lasts ten months.

So the struggle we had in order to give the necessary education to help our daughter was wasted - young slaves are the order of the day.

Anthony Horderns' motto is: "While we live, we'll grow" - yes, on the backs of the workers and by sapping the youth and energy of the slaves.

**WOMEN WORKERS!**  
Are Your Conditions like these?  
What are you doing on the Job?

About nine months ago my attention was first drawn to one of the fashionable tailoring establishments in Brisbane. I began to help queer stories of this sort.

This year was advanced when the girls were informed that they were expected to clean their own lavatories during the lunch hour. The girls, being afraid to kick individually against doing the cleaner out of the job, eventually, I believe, took the matter to the foreman, with the result that the boss was beaten on that point. Also another right was gained namely that of possessing the key of their own lavatories which had been open to all comers and were continually in a frightful condition.

The tailoresses of this establishment have for a long period been working broken time. Every now and again they would be laid off for one, two or three weeks. One of the most competent girls, my informant told me, was put off when business became slack, and in order to retain her future tailoring service, her employer gave her a job as a nurse in his own home, giving her £1 a week. The damnable part of it is, that this girl is now prepared to do almost anything for her boss.

A short time ago, I am told, he attempted to bludgeon them again. They had been doing six jobs a week, that is three waistcoats and three pair of trousers. One morning the kind master came to the workroom and informed them that in the future he expected each tailoress to complete ten jobs a week. The girls attempted to do more work and as it was impossible for them to do this amount of work in 44 hours, they commenced taking work home and sitting late at night doing it in order to hold their jobs. This meant that working at the same speed that they had hitherto been doing, the girls would have to put in a working week of 73 hours, 20 minutes.

The union officials, getting to hear of this tyrannical form of slave driving, went along to the establishment and informed the girls they were infringing on the law by taking work home with them and doing it at night, and that they were liable to a heavy penalty for so doing. The employer was also told that if the girls took work home to do he would be placed in an unenviable position. This had the effect of making him withdraw the demand for a ten job week. But after he spoke to the girls telling

### OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY!

Two years ago this month, JANUARY 1927, the Militant Women's Group was established in Sydney, having only a few members.

Now we have THE MILITANT WOMEN'S MOVEMENT OF AUSTRALIA, with four Groups, not merely one Group in Sydney.

We are looking forward to establishing more Groups before our next Anniversary.

WOMEN COMRADES, YOU CAN HELP US TO DO THIS BY JOINING AT ONCE!

Write to The Secretary, M.W.M. of A., Trades Hall, Sydney, unless you are near to one of our other Groups

### GROUP NOTICES.

#### BRISBANE.

Business Meeting and Study Class. Every Thursday at 8 p.m. in the TRADES HALL.

#### CESSNOCK.

Business meeting and Study Class. SATURDAY AFTERNOONS at 3 o'clock in the SCHOOL OF ARTS.

#### MELBOURNE.

Business Meeting and Study Class. WEDNESDAY 8 p.m. 217 Russell St.

#### SYDNEY.

Business Meeting and Study Class. EVERY MONDAY at 8 p.m. in the Trades Hall.

ASSIST THE WORKERS' PRESS FUND.

Sydney Group is running a COMPETITION for the above Fund. A beautiful hand-embroidered CUSHION COVER to be won. Tickets 6d. each.

(contd).  
them that they were expected to do what they could at the same time letting them know that he considered six jobs were too little! This particular employer realised that owing to lack of organisation among the girls, his attacks would not always be repudiated. And he will no doubt attack his workers again and again.

Women comrades, make your position safe by organising along the lines of industry. One Big Union in the Clothing Industry to embrace all the clothing workers, so that the next time the boss attacks you you will stand firm and show a united front such a glorious army that the boss will have to sit up and listen to our demands. We are the majority and we do the work.

Women workers, don't forget that UNITY IS STRENGTH. "Luceo". (Brisbane Militant Women's Group).

# The Woman Worker -



ISSUED ONCE A MONTH.  
By THE MILITANT WOMEN'S MOVEMENT OF AUSTRALIA.  
Address: Trades Hall,  
Goulburn Street, Sydney, Australia.

7th. June, 1929.

Vol. I. No. 8

"LADIES and WOMEN".

From an English newspaper this gem of snobbery and class distinction is quoted:-

"The other day when some ladies visited the homes of unemployed miners in Durham and Wales they found quilting, that pretty form of needlework, still alive. For generations mothers had taught daughters how to work this lovely pattern; if the rich people had tired of this sort of beauty, the poor had not. Then the ladies saw here a way out of misery. Wives and daughters of unemployed should make lovely quilted bedspreads, cushions and paraverture covers, and the Rural Industries Bureau should sell them. The poor women were only too delighted to try and in three months they had earned 2450 -- quilts in satin and linen and brocade appear in all the great houses. So women sing in houses where once they sighed, as they work the wonderful feather pattern without any design sketched for them, trusting to their eyes. It is love of beauty which has saved them from poverty; if they had not kept quilting alive they would be destitute now."

What a commentary this incident is upon our crazy economic system! Rich "ladies", parasites of society with nothing to do, look down from their aristocratic splendor upon the quality of the unemployed families, and resuscitate a dead and useless fashion in order to provide temporary work for a few workers' wives. In an age when machines can make thousands of beautifully-patterned quilts in a single day, with very little labor from the workers, and at a very low cost, women have got to turn back the clock to a past age when machines were hardly known and materials were scarce and precious. No one except fashionable bored society ladies could surely admire a patchwork quilt more than the soft dainty elderdoms which machines can fashion for those who can afford to buy them!

And the fashionable ladies imagine they prefer the patchwork first because it is now rare and an oddity and second because it gives them such a feeling of virtue to be providing a few crusts of bread for "the deserving poor". Charity workers always feel virtuous and self-satisfied but their efforts to improve conditions are as effective as emptying the ocean with a teaspoon.

And finally, note the terms used in this article. So materially does the writer belong to the exploiting class that he does not notice the blatant distinction in the terms "the ladies" and the "poor women" and the assumption that "fine ladies" and "great houses, satin, linen and brocade belong to each other as the sun belongs to daytime!

It is this kind of snobbery that permeates our present social system and which most people accept without even noticing it -- unless they belong to the working class themselves!

SEND IN A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "WOMAN WORKER". 1/- for six months.

SLTF  
3314099  
W84M

War Menace in Silk Stockings.

The Sydney "Sun" reported recently that Courtaulds Ltd., the great artificial silk manufacturers in England had made a profit for the year of £5,170,000. This is actually 200 per cent on the capital which has been paid for by shareholders.

It should be remembered that closely allied with the production of artificial silk -- whose commonest form is cellulose acetate -- is the production of munitions of war, such as high explosives, aeroplane fabric and dope and -- with little change -- poison gas.

Every capitalist government today is encouraging the artificial silk industry, because its works are a potential arsenal.

A fellow worker who makes clippings from the technical press has shown us the following statement from the American "Chemical Age", of August, 1926.

"Armed to the Teeth".  
"If the industries manufacturing cellulose fabric and other cellulose products were in the position to convert their plant rapidly to the manufacture of nitro cellulose explosives, then a nation whose artificial silk, dye stuffs and synthetic nitrogen were in a flourishing condition would be armed to the teeth."

Technicians and chemists will easily solve the problem of quick change over to war purposes.

It is no accident that the British Government controls 500,000 shares in British Celanese.

CAROL. N.S.W.

My husband has a job here with a banana grower, 12/- a day to chip bananas. That is all any of them will give. And if a white man does not take it, there are plenty of Hindus and Kanakas to do it for even less. One man is falling scrub for banana land and employs all Kanakas for less than £3 a week.

No matter where one goes it is the same, the worker is exploited. Yet these dairy farmers will never see that their case is the same as the workers. I know several women here and their minds are narrowed down to cows and the struggle of paying bills.

.....

DO YOU KNOW? That the Militant Women's Movement DEMANDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT A FREE NOURISHING BEAL PER DAY (INCLUDING ONE PINT OF MILK) for all school children.

.....  
business of some of the middle class trading in the precious fluid. What are other public schools doing in this line? The "Woman Worker" will be interested to hear.

BUY EMPIRE GOODS.

Empire Shopping Week represents the interests of one section of the capitalist class and the Australian Made Preference League (Buy Australian Made) represents another section, namely those who have their money in British or other Empire concerns and those who are interested purely in Australian industry.

Hence the reason for the conflicting propaganda broadcasted. One time we are urged to Buy Australian Made and another time to support the Empire by buying Singapore Pineapples, Indian Rice, etc. What we are to do with Queensland lineapples and Yanco (NSW) rice is not explained.

By the way, Yanco (Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area) is now able to supply all the rice that Australia needs.

It is by conflicts in the capitalists' interests as shown above that we learn a few more of the hypocrisies of this society -- but we must remember that when it is a question of waging war on the workers, colored or white, the capitalist class is never divided.

DRINK MORE MILK.

A "Milk Week" campaign was held in Sydney last month. The sponsor of the whole campaign was the infamous nationalist Dr. Arthur of "skin milk for miners' kids" fame.

According to attractive posters: a pint of milk per day for each child is essential.

One of our members living in Redfern (Sydney) received a circular from the local school mistress. The circular states that "quarter-pint bottles of milk can be supplied to your child at a cost of 8d. per week payable in advance. One bottle will be supplied on each of the five school days."

A quarter of a pint of milk per day for the Redfern school children at the FULL PRICE! Of course we mothers all want to buy more milk but why all this

slop about the needs of Australia's children and then this insult? Milk week was evidently an advertising campaign. The Education Dept. could sell the milk at 1d. per pint and not lose on it, but this would ruin the

Emancipation of Women.

During these last months we have had quite a number of women speakers on the wireless, mostly timber workers' wives or members of the Militant Women's Group. I would like to make a few remarks about women entering into the class struggle.

Lenin points out that there can be no successful social revolution without the liberation of women from the fetters with which the capitalist state has held them bound for centuries.

During the present dispute, women have been taking an active part in the class struggle; they realise that they are an important factor in organising relief and helping in general. The women have never before had such a golden opportunity of showing their strength and solidarity during their menfolk as they have during this lockout. In strikes and lockouts in years past they were the means often of the men not winning the strike; the women did not understand that the bosses' attacks would reduce the standard of living for themselves and their families, and therefore they continually urged the men back to work.

To-day the repressive measures introduced by the Bruce and Davin Governments have challenged the workers of this country and that they have accepted this challenge has been demonstrated very clearly in the timber workers' dispute. We do not intend our conditions and wages to be brought down to the coolie level and that is one of the reasons why the M.W.G. has organised the wives of the men to help them in their struggle for freedom.

LUKIN'S BALLOT.

Dear Comrade,

There is a man in my district who worked in a timber mill three years ago and he was very surprised when he got one of Judge Lukin's Secret Ballot papers, seeing that he had dropped out of the union and the industry for so long. I wonder how many more were sent out like this by those in control of the ballot -- with the hope no doubt that others would help to vote for the timber workers giving in. Anyhow we told him to burn the paper -- and he did.

.....  
paid working women and unskilled young workers are now playing a leading part in the process of production, and that in the coming war the women will be as subject to compulsory military service as the men. The bourgeoisie is proceeding systematically to militarise the women!

PACKING BLUE.

Piece work is the thing here, and the rotten part about it is that we get sick and tired of doing the one job year in year out -- some of us have been packing blue for five years or more. But once we get our speed up on packing blue, it is no use going on to another part of the work, because we could not make the money and could not go so fast. So even though we are sick of it, we can't change and do some other part of the factory work because of that.

Now this is a very funny thing. Although the bosses tell us that piece work is for our benefit and is better for us, they don't want us to stop working one minute and yet if we stop it is at our own expense! We are only paid while we are actually working and yet in the factory, even on piece work, we are supposed to go all the time. Beginners are put on a weekly wage for a time until they are able to do a certain amount and then they are put on piece work. The rate for piece work is less than the weekly rate of course and for a time they have to go on less wages until they can work like hell and make up their ordinary wages. We get a bonus every year but I will tell you about that later.

BLUE BAG.NEWS FROM GERMANY.

The bourgeoisie realises even more clearly than the proletariat the decisive role which will be played by women in the coming war, and is therefore working feverishly to gain their allegiance, organising them with much skill in every description of christian craft union, gathering them around the welfare organisations, and now even penetrating into the works and factories. Of late the works sports clubs have contrived to recruit tens of thousands of women workers. The report sent in by a woman worker delegated to the district conference of the RFMB (Red Women's and Girls' League) Berlin-Brandenburg, states the alarming fact that in the factory sport club of the Singers' Sewing Machine factory at Wittenberge, the women workers practise shooting.

Our German proletarians still fail to realise that the tasks of the proletarian women have long since gone beyond pots and pans and the knitting of stockings, or at most ambulance service in the workers' struggles; that the bourgeoisie systematically to militarise the women!

Children at School.

The morning programme at school begins in the playground with "Fall In" at 9.30 followed by "God Save the King", "Advance Australia Fair", etc. which are taught them by the schoolmaster.

These are workers' children and yet their parents are content to allow this flag flapping to go on. It is about time we realised that it is ourselves and our children that want saving and that the workers' advance is what we aim for.

And afterwards.

Compulsory training is one of the methods used by the ruling class to prepare the youth of the country to "Save the King" (in reality to save their property from other rapacious parasites) and so the development of the rising generation proceeds. When slavery was recognised, food, clothing and shelter were provided by the masters, but now when unemployment presents itself and when the workers resist attacks of the employers, nothing but dire starvation and misery faces us and our children.

And we talk of "God Save the King" and "Advance Australia Fair"!

Women of the working class, the Militant Women's Group is in existence for the purpose of training women to assist in "advancing" the struggle of the workers to a successful conclusion and end misery and want forever.

A.J. (Cessnock Group).

TIMBER DISPUTE IN SYDNEY.

Splendid relief work is now being carried on by A.L.F., M.W.G. and other relief committees in the various suburbs. This means that it is no longer necessary for the women to come into the city every week to attend to business. However, the weekly meetings are being continued because some of the women desire to have them kept on. As there is not so much business to do, we have a weekly lecturette and discussion which has been very enjoyable. It is significant that the wives of the timber workers are prepared to come into these meetings although they have to pay their fare. They say they have got used to them and do not want to give them up. A campaign for collecting warm clothing is now being carried on with much success. Any parcels of warm clothing should be sent to: Miss J. Thompson,

Militant Women's Group  
Trades Hall, Sydney.

After batches of the children so that mothers could be free all day. The Militant Women's Group realises that not by any parliament will the workers achieve their emancipation; we have to organise ourselves to overthrow the whole system.

MINERS' WIVES SPLENDID

MASS MEETING.

In Cessnock on 29th. May.

There was a very good attendance at the meeting of miners' wives called by the Militant Women's Group in Cessnock. A detailed account of it appears in the "Workers' Weekly" (7th. June).

We have no space here to say all we should like to about it but it is not only encouraging and stimulating but very important that the womenfolk in the coalfields should become active in this particular dispute.

There will now be a weekly meeting of miners' wives in Cessnock and relief work will be conducted by the women. They are all determined to do everything so they can hold out during the winter weather if the owners try to force the men back on a reduction. The whole situation is very dear to the women: like all of us the wives of the miners are of the opinion that we should be better off and not worse off. To bring up children to work for longer hours and for less wages than their fathers did, is something not to be tolerated.

Resolutions were carried on the following lines:

- NO WAGE REDUCTIONS.
- FREE MEALS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.
- WORK ON FULL MAINTENANCE.
- SOLIDARITY WITH THE MINERS
- EMPHATIC PROTEST AGAINST THE DOLE REDUCTION.
- CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TIMBER WORKERS.

.....

WOMEN IN THE BRISBANE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

Owing to the fact that the McCormack Labor Government (and previous Labor Governments in Queensland for the past 14 years) had been definitely anti-working class, had used the police against the workers, had locked out railway workers and generally acted on behalf of the capitalist class, the M.W.G. in Brisbane did not give the Labor candidates any support. Our members worked for those candidates who were putting up a working class programme, the Communist candidates and left wing candidates.

On polling day, the women took care of tables outside the booths gave out leaflets, talked to the workers, some members brought food round to those who were at the booths all day, others looked after the children so that mothers could be free all day.