

THE WOMAN WORKER

Official Organ of the National Federation of Women Workers.

Edited by MARY R. MACARTHUR.

Published at Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

VOL. I.—No. I.

SEPTEMBER, 1907.

ONE PENNY.

EDITORIAL

With the appearance of the first number of *The Woman Worker* we realise a long cherished ambition. Of the making of new magazines there is no end, but we make no apology for our appearance. There is room for *The Woman Worker*, which will be run in the interests of those included in its title.

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To teach the need for unity, to help to improve working conditions, to present a monthly picture of the many activities of women Trade Unionists, to discuss all questions affecting the interests and welfare of women. Such, in brief, is our aim and purpose.

* * *

First of all *The Woman Worker* will impress the necessity for union and organisation amongst women who toil. We shall be able month by month to give countless examples of how wages, hours, and conditions are improved by Trade Union effort, and to show the advantages of unionism from the point of view of education and comradeship. Many proofs will be given of the value of combination in securing improvement in the social and industrial position of women.

* * *

We intend to make an attempt to touch the life of working women at every point,



and to establish this journal as a bond binding them together in friendship and unity. We shall go fully into the question of women's work and wages, and shall tell truthfully and fearlessly the story of the conditions under which many thousands of our sisters labour and live.

* * *

There have recently been many revolts on the part of women against those unjust terms of employment which deprive the workers of all that makes life best worth living. In the future all the struggle—women against injustice—*and* have the support of *this* *is* to be a paper for Federation of *women*. There is ample room for By this *is* it all good luck."

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He waits a moment, but the girl's passion has already waned, and he adds, "You'd better put an extra tuck on the sleeves!"

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publicity to the facts of each case, to enlist public sympathy, and to help to obtain victories for the organised women workers.

There will be occasional articles explaining the scope and purpose of the Factory, Truck, and Compensation laws, so that these may be more easily understood, and the protection which they offer more widely known. We shall also direct attention to certain weaknesses in existing legislation, and show how it can be amended in the workers' interests.

Special attention is directed to our supplement, "Sacred Motherhood," which is a reproduction of a picture drawn by Mr. Luther D. Bradley for the Sweated Industries Exhibition in Chicago, and which was presented by the artist to the Women's Trade Union League of America.

The picture epitomises the pathos and tragedy of the life of the sweated home worker. Few can see unmoved the hopeless despair on the mother's face, or fail to realise that life is surely poisoned at its very fount for her helpless babe. The picture is not an exaggerated one. It is typical of many homes, not only in America, but in the east end of our own great cities.

The responsibility is ours. Those of us in factory or workshop, whose conditions of labour are comparatively good, can help these unfortunate victims of our industrial system, and help ourselves at the same time, by joining the union in our trade, which is the great army of organised workers for the down-trodden and homeless child and for

Our magazine will seek to aid the working woman in all the troubles and trials that beset her in her industrial life. Advice will be given in legal difficulties, and complaints relating to bad conditions, which are breaches of Factory Laws, will be investigated, and where possible, remedied. Each month we shall endeavour to explain the principles of Trade Unionism in a new and entertaining manner, by publishing a series of parables.

It is not, however, our intention to neglect the lighter needs of our readers. We shall endeavour to include many popular features in our pages. Prizes will be offered each month, and our readers so encouraged to develop the latent faculties many of them possess. The wife and mother will find the household hints and cooking recipes so dear to her heart, and lovers of fiction and poetry will also be catered for. We hope to publish original verses and complete stories each month. Arrangements are also being made for the appearance in an early number of a serial tale of engrossing interest dealing with factory life.

The task before us is of great magnitude, but we confidently appeal to you, our readers, for help. We shall do our best; no one can do more. We leave, then, without fear, the success of our venture in your hands.

"The Woman Worker" FOR OCTOBER

- Will contain, amongst many other interesting features:-
Special Accounts of the International Congress at Stuttgart, and the Trade Union Congress at Bath.
" Impressions of a Bachelor." The first of a series of amusing sketches.
Portrait and Character Sketch of Margaret G. Bondfield.
" The Parable of the Foolish Irishman."



The Editor invites brief letters on subjects of general interest. Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only. Letters should be sent in not later than the 20th day of each month, and should be addressed:—Editor, Woman Worker, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

We publish a selection from the numerous kind messages which we have received wishing our enterprise success.

The Leader of the Labour Party writes from Liverpool on the eve of his departure on a tour in distant lands:—"Best wishes for success of The Woman Worker. It is much needed, and under your energetic charge cannot be other than successful."—J. Keir Hardie.

The Bishop of Birmingham. "A hearty welcome to the magazine which is to encourage women workers to organise their forces."

The Home Secretary, In an encouraging letter from Downing Street, writes:—"I wish all success and long life to The Woman Worker. It is a further step by you in the right direction. The most practical service that can be rendered to the women of the industrial world is to teach them to help themselves, as well as to use the help of those competent to give it."—Herbert J. Gladstone.

A Good Employer's View. "I trust that The Woman Worker will be well supported. It is difficult to organise Trade Unions among women workers, and they are therefore helpless when wages are cut down."—George Cadbury.

A Famous Author. "Success and wide influence to The Woman Worker. There is no paper I shall watch with more interest than your hopeful experiment."—H. G. Wells.

D. J. Shackleton, M.P., Vice Chairman Labour Party. "I am delighted you are about to publish a monthly magazine mainly devoted to further the interests of working women. Under your able guidance I am sure it will have a prosperous career. Please accept my best wishes."

J. R. Macdonald, M.P., Secretary Labour Party. "The woman worker certainly requires an organ, and nobody is better fitted to edit it than yourself. I am only sorry that it is a monthly and not a weekly."—(Bide a wee!—Ed.)

Will Crooks, M.P. "Let all the readers of The Woman Worker remember: 'Be strong; we are not here to play, to drift. We have hard work to do, and loads to lift. Shun not the struggle. Face it. Be strong.'"

W. C. Steadman, M.P., Secretary Trade Union Congress Parliamentary Committee. "May The Woman Worker be the means of securing better conditions of life for the women workers."

Pete Curran, M.P. "Glad to hear there is to be a paper for women workers. There is ample room for it. I wish it all good luck."

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T. F. Richards, M.P.

"That *The Woman Worker* may have the same effect upon working women as the work of its editor has had on the whole Labour Movement, is my sincere and earnest hope."—(It will take a great deal more than *that* to satisfy us!—Ed.)

George Barnes, M.P.

"Good luck to *The Woman Worker*. It is badly needed, for the condition of women who have to earn their living is still a disgrace to the nation."

Alexander Wilkie, M.P.

"I am very pleased to hear that you are about to launch *The Woman Worker*. Long may she float on the stormy waters of life, and steer clear of the rocks and shoals that so often beset such efforts. And as she sails over the troublous seas, I trust she will clearly show the port dark *red light* of the danger in the isolation, and non-unionism of women workers. And as clearly show the starboard bright *green light* of the hope of a fuller and better life through the *unity* and the *organisation* of all females who have to earn their living by the sweat of their brow."—[We are grateful for your good wishes, but our compositor is making a claim under the Workman's Compensation Act for *mal de mer*.—Ed.]

Philip Snowden, M.P.

"I wish *The Woman Worker* every success, and sincerely hope it may help greatly to advance Trade Unionism among women workers."

L. G. Chiozza Money, M.P.

"I look forward with the liveliest anticipation and pleasure to the appearance of *The Woman Worker*. I rejoice that your singular abilities and magnetic enthusiasm are finding a new outlet. *The Woman Worker* deserves success, and it is the duty

of every working woman to help it to command it. One constant male reader is assured.—[Thanks, but did you say *one*?—Ed.]

Mrs. & Mr. Bruce Glasier, Editor, "Labour Leader."

"Our heartiest good wishes for the success of the new magazine. In the women's movement of to-day the spread of Trade Unionism is one of the most hopeful signs. The Federation of Women Workers stand for the most hopeful form of Trade Unionism. It recognises alike the community of interest that exists between all workers, and the right of Trade Unionists to make the fullest possible use of Parliament to secure their highest well-being."

Mr. Harry Quelch, Editor of "Justice."

"Success to the new journalistic venture. The hope for working women, as for working men, lies in education and class conscious organisation. To that end your journal should be of great assistance."

TRADE UNION LITERATURE.

The Women's Trade Union Review. From 1891, complete. Bound in paper.

Women's Union Journal, 1888, 1889, 1900. In paper covers. One shilling each volume.

Annual Reports of the Women's Trade Union League. These reports contain the history of the earliest Trade Unions formed amongst women.

Workmen's Compensation Act Placards 1½d. each, 1s. 4d. per doz. Also printed on paper, 1s. 6d. per 100.

Leaflets Advocating Trade Unionism. For distribution among women workers, 2s. 6d. per 100 post free.

Women as Trade Unionists. Price 1d. each; 50 for 5s.; 100 for 9s. 6d.; 1,000 for £3 15s. Carriage paid.

The Workroom and How to Improve it. A leaflet for distribution amongst women employed in Factory or Workshop, giving in simple language a summary of Legal Regulations.

Trade Unionism in the Potteries. By Lady Dilke.

Trade Unionism amongst Women. By Mary R. MacArthur.

THE PARABLE OF THE BUNDLE OF STICKS.

By MARY R. MACARTHUR.

You have all heard of the foolish old woman who went out and bought a bundle of sticks tied tightly together with a piece of string. She was in a hurry to get the fire lit when she got home, so she tried to break the bundle as it was. What was the result? She did not break the sticks. She nearly broke her fingers instead. Had she untied the string each stick could easily have been broken separately, but united together the sticks protected each other, and could not be broken.

A Trade Union is like a bundle of sticks. The workers are bound together, and have the strength of unity. No employer can do as he likes with them. They have the power of resistance. They can resist reductions in wages. They can ask for an advance without fear. A worker who is not in a Union is like a single stick. She can easily be broken or bent to the will of her employer. She has not power to resist a reduction in wages. If she is fined she must pay without complaint. She dare not ask for a "rise." If she does she will be told, "If you do not like it you can leave it." She will be told, "Your place is outside the gate—there are plenty to take your place." An employer can do without one worker. He cannot do without all his workers. If all the workers united in a union—strong as the bundle of sticks—complain or ask for improved conditions, the employer is bound to listen.

Sometimes a few of the most sensible and wide-awake women in a factory decide to join a union. They cannot, however, persuade the more thoughtless and selfish girls to join. These say, "Oh! We don't need to join. We'll get any benefits you get." Such girls are not only selfish, they are short-

sighted. They are injuring not only themselves, but their fellow workers as well. They are standing in the way of improved conditions. They are assisting their employers to keep down wages, to make reductions, to inflict fines, or to provide bad material.

Let me explain by a story:—

There was once a small boy named Tommy who was always fighting. His Sunday School teacher tried to stop this bad habit, and one Sunday lectured him for an hour on the wickedness of fighting, and told him that he ought always to "turn the other cheek." Tommy listened attentively, and at last the teacher, anxious to know if she had been understood, said, "Now, Tommy, supposing another boy comes and gives you a knock in the eye to-day when you leave Sunday School, what will you do?" "What will I do," said Tommy, thoughtfully, scratching his head, "Well! it depends on the other fellow's size."

Employers are very like Tommy. "It depends on the size of the Union," whether they listen to its demand or not. So you see the girls outside the Union may be keeping the Union small and weak, and so preventing improved conditions.

If you, reader, are outside, join at once. It is a duty you owe to yourself and to the other girls.

Don't wait, join now, and once you do join, don't rest until all your fellow workers and all the girls you know who work for wages have followed your example and joined also.

Some girls make "collecting" a hobby. Some collect postage stamps; some collect picture post cards. Make your hobby the collecting of new members for your Union!

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**"Something Bigger
than Herself."**

By
The Right Hon.
SIR CHARLES W.
DILKE, Bart., M.P.



THE LATE LADY DILKE.

I welcome the announcement that a popular magazine, edited by Miss Macarthur is to appear. I believe that such a journal must, like the textile Labour papers of the North, have a marked effect in helping forward Labour organisation. It will form a bond between the branches of the Women Workers' Federation, and will keep all acquainted with what is being done by their comrades in different parts of the country.

Lady Dilke, whose interest in, and whose work for organisation among women workers is well known, used to quote words spoken to her by a woman representative of one of the most depressed and ill-organised trades. The little society of thirty members with which this worker was connected made her feel, as she put it, that she belonged to something bigger than herself. This corporate feeling—this sense of common action for common good, is the best thing that Trade Unionism can give.

In proportion to the scale on which the organisation can be formed will be, of

course, its power, and the value of its work. The organisation of the scattered woman workers, in which *The Woman Worker* will play a part, has a direct bearing on the work of those of us in Parliament who are interested in Labour matters. The value of our efforts to obtain better conditions in the Labour world must depend to a great extent on the intelligent support which we get from those affected. For this reason it is of the utmost importance that all workers should know that Bills affecting their interests are before Parliament, and should interest themselves in amending or forwarding them.

The success of the Lancashire textile operatives in obtaining their desires from Parliament, shows what can be done by organised effort, and when the next amending Factory and Workshop Bill comes before the Commons, we shall expect to hear the views of the Federation of Women Workers on the proposals of the Government Department.

Our Portrait Gallery.

No. 1.—MISS TUCKWELL.

(Chairman of the Women's Trade Union League.)



Miss Gertrude Tuckwell is the daughter of the Radical Parson, and as a girl was brought into contact with Labour problems by her father's crusade against agricultural oppression. His experiment in allotments with fair rent and fixity of tenure, and his advocacy of nationalisation of the land were then well known. At twenty-one years of age she left home and trained as a Board School mistress, working from 1886-1892 in a London school. She gave up teaching about 1892, and then contributed a little book on "The State and Its Children" to a series on Social Questions. From this time on she worked as secretary to her aunt, Lady Dilke, helping in her Labour work, editing the *Women's Trade Union Review*, and taking the hon. secretaryship of the Women's Trade Union League. In 1894, on the death of the then president,

Lady Dilke, Miss Tuckwell was elected president. She has written many articles on industrial questions, and has closely followed industrial developments, attending every Trade Congress since 1893.

Miss Tuckwell sends the following message to *The Woman Worker* :—

"I think it is as long ago as 1892 that I first discussed with Lady Dilke the possibility of starting a popular women's paper—something which would go throughout the world of women workers and should help to bind them together. All my best wishes go with *The Woman Worker*, and to its readers. It is delightful to think that the paper which I knew to be necessary in 1892, and which we had not the power then to launch, is to be realised in 1907, under the able editorship of my friend Miss Macarthur."

[Every month we shall publish a brief biography of character sketch and portrait of a woman prominent in the Trade Union movement. Next month, Miss Margaret C. Bondfield, Assistant Secretary Shop Assistants' Union.]

Legal Advice.

Free legal advice on industrial matters will be given to any of our readers who require it. Complaints as to bad conditions, long hours, insufficient meal times, fines, deductions, bad sanitary arrangements, are invited, and will be treated in strict confidence. Enclose name and address, which will not be divulged, and a "pen" name for publication.

We love one because of his granting, and another because of his withholding.

Love sought to keep one from the conflict and the day's march, heedless that from these sprang his worthiness of love.

We thank God for nothing so much as for what we have wrung from suffering.

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“PUT TO THE PROOF.”

By CONSTANCE SMITH.

“Women have no sense of comradeship.” Fred Sewell spoke as one having authority. “I shall vote against your appeal, Margaret.”

Margaret Read flushed painfully. She had a delicate, sensitive face, which served as a faithful mirror to her emotions.

“Is that treating us quite fairly?” she inquired. Her tone was almost timid, but the clear grey eyes fixed upon her cousin, lolling in lordly fashion on the opposite side of the fireplace, were unflinching in their gaze. “You have never tested our capacity for loyalty.”

Sir Oracle smiled. “Every man who knows anything at all about women”—consciousness of vast experience was in the tone of the speaker, who had just passed his two-and-twentieth birthday—“knows that they don’t understand what loyalty means.”

“Fred!” his sister Amy burst out indignantly. “How can you say such a thing? Think of all the wives who have sacrificed themselves for their husbands! You’ve only got to read English history!”

Fred waved a silencing hand. A shining light of the Oldfield Debating Society, who knew his Gibbon, recommended by a sister under eighteen to “read English history!”

“You quite mistake my point,” he declared grandly. “I’m not disputing the fact that women often devote themselves very faithfully to some particular fellow—”

“Thanks,” Amy put in.

“What I deny is that they can be trusted to stick to a cause. Therefore, no women members of our Federation, say I, and so say all of us, as Margaret will find out next week. You might just as well withdraw that request for an equal membership,

Margaret; it hasn’t the ghost of a chance with our committee.”

“I think I’ll send it in all the same, Fred, thank you.” Margaret spoke without bitterness, but firmly withal. “And now it is time I went home; we have a meeting to-morrow night, and I don’t want to leave mother alone two evenings running.”

The fair-haired Amy accompanied her cousin to the door, and kissed her warmly, whispering: “Don’t worry yourself about anything Fred says; he is only a silly boy, though he does think himself so mighty clever.”

“Unfortunately, so many people think as he does,” Margaret Read answered. “I wonder whether they’re right—if we really are such poor creatures, we women? I’ve fancied that I could bear a good deal in order to see some injustices righted, but perhaps if it came to the pinch—”

“Oh, don’t get introspective!” Amy interrupted. “You are capable of anything—except of looking after yourself properly. Good-night.”

Margaret gone, Amy turned almost fiercely on her brother.

“When you want to run down women as comrades, you should leave Margaret out of the question, Fred. Really, it’s too absurd! Margaret—who is working herself to death over that miserable women’s union of her’s—taking twice the trouble you take. I’d like to know what man secretary would give up his amusements for his union as Margaret does!”

Fred pulled tranquilly at his pipe.

“Her union is Margaret’s amusement. She likes it much better than the theatre—just at present. But her tastes will change,

you’ll see. If Bernard White asks her to marry him, we shan’t hear much more of Margaret’s unionism.”

“Is he against unionism, then?”

“It is too much a working man’s job for any lord. Library clerks are gentlemen—in their own estimation,” sneered Fred.

“I don’t believe a hundred Bernard Whites would shake Margaret,” Amy protested stoutly. But her heart misgave her, for all her words were so confident. She had long suspected her cousin of caring somewhat unduly for Mr. Bernard White’s good opinion.

Margaret, meanwhile, was wending her way homeward through the park which lies, a green oasis, between the two brick-and-mortar wildernesses of East and West Oldfield. She crossed it slowly, with a dragging step, oppressed by thoughts increasingly despondent.

It was all very well for Amy to depreciate Fred’s opinion; he remained none the less the mouthpiece of men wiser and weightier than himself. Margaret knew perfectly that her attempt to obtain admission for the girl workers in Oldfield’s staple trade into the men-operatives’ unions was foredoomed to failure, even as her cousin had predicted—and her heart sank under the knowledge. In the special department of “Back-house’s,” where she acted as check clerk, there was little to complain of: conditions were healthy, and the work, being highly skilled, was not ill-paid. But in other branches of that huge establishment grievances were many and serious; and how was the feeble women’s union she had with such difficulty nursed into precarious life, to obtain redress of these if the powerful organisations absorbing the whole mass of men-workers refused to hold out to it the right hand of fellowship? The girl moved more and more slowly through the soft June

dusk; finally, beside a little pond dotted over with water-lilies, she stopped altogether, and stood looking down with knitted brows. “They can’t trust us to play the comrade’s part! Perhaps we are selfish, as workers, but then we’ve had to fight so long alone, each for her own hand. And we are learning better ways by degrees. Some of us, at least, would not shrink from making sacrifices for the good of the many. I wish”—in her absorption she spoke half aloud—“I almost wish—”

“What is it you wish?” inquired a pleasant voice behind her.

Margaret started, and the colour rose in her cheeks. “You!” she exclaimed.

“Yes, I,” Bernard White answered, thinking he had never before seen her look so pretty. He was a figure to take a maiden’s fancy as he stood there in the gloaming, tall and slim and straight in his well-cut grey clothes, and gazed down at Margaret Read with dark, earnest eyes. “I was coming up Repton Street and saw you turn in at Montague Gate, so I hurried after you. I have something to say to you, Margaret—something I have been wanting to say for a long time.”

The young man spoke truth, if not quite the whole truth. For years he had been more or less in love with Margaret Read; but of late doubts whether he would be wise to allow his feeling for her to find its natural expression in an offer of marriage had beset his mind. Since the far-off days when, as neighbours’ children and school-fellows, he and Margaret had played together, the social position of both had changed. The boy’s father had lived and prospered, rising from the ranks of the employed into those of the employer; the girl’s had died poor and in debt, leaving his widow and daughter to fight for their existence in a world none too friendly. Bernard

For

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himself was conscious of standing on a level which, from the point of view of the factory "hand," might be considered dazzlingly lofty. It was, perhaps, hardly fitting that he, a man who had succeeded in passing the Oldfield University examinations with credit, should take a wife from among the ranks of the manual workers.

Luckily for herself, Margaret Read knew nothing of these scruples and hesitations, and the story that Bernard White told in the falling summer twilight beside the water-lilies was to her a sound of pure joy. Margaret was quite healthily human; her general interest in the griefs and wrongs of her fellow workers had never in any degree served to impair her particular interest in one young man.

She walked home that evening treading on air, disposed to hope the very best of a world "That had such people in't" as Bernard White. Only when, on the threshold of her mother's tiny house, she bade her lover good-night, did the suspicion of a cloud no bigger than a man's hand dim for an instant the clear sunshine of her soul's sky. He had asked her to walk with him on the following evening, and she had consented, adding, "But I shall have to be in Madden Street by eight. Our weekly committee meeting, you remember."

Bernard White frowned.

"I remember. Hang that union! Can't you throw the meeting over for once?"

"Impossible, I'm secretary. I must go, as a matter of business—and duty."

Her voice had a note of timid appeal.

The young man broke into a laugh.

"All right, dear. Of course, you must have your little amusements—and you shall call them 'business' and 'duty' if you like."

His tone was quite loverlike, and a caress accompanied his words. Nevertheless,

Margaret sighed as she turned away. "I wish he would take the union seriously," she said to herself.

But that was just what Bernard White refused to do. Sometimes he made fun of Margaret's "enthusiasms"; on other occasions, when the pursuit of them interfered with what he considered his legitimate claims on her society and attention, he fumed at her "fads." He never took them seriously, until circumstances forced him to do so.

(Concluded next month.)

National Federation of Women Workers. . .

The General Objects of the Society are—

1. To unite, for their mutual protection, workwomen who are engaged in unorganised trades.
2. To improve the conditions of employment of working women; to watch their interests, and secure the redress of individual or collective grievances.
3. To regulate the relations between employer and employed.
4. To secure fair payment for services rendered.
5. To give legal aid to members.
6. To provide a weekly allowance for members when ill or out of employment.
7. To financially support members who may be involved in a dispute, with the sanction of the Federation.
8. To bring all members in touch with one another by means of social gatherings, and in such other ways as may promote comradeship and recreation.

Entrance fee, 6d. Contributions: Class A, 1d.; Class B, 3d.; Class C, 4d.

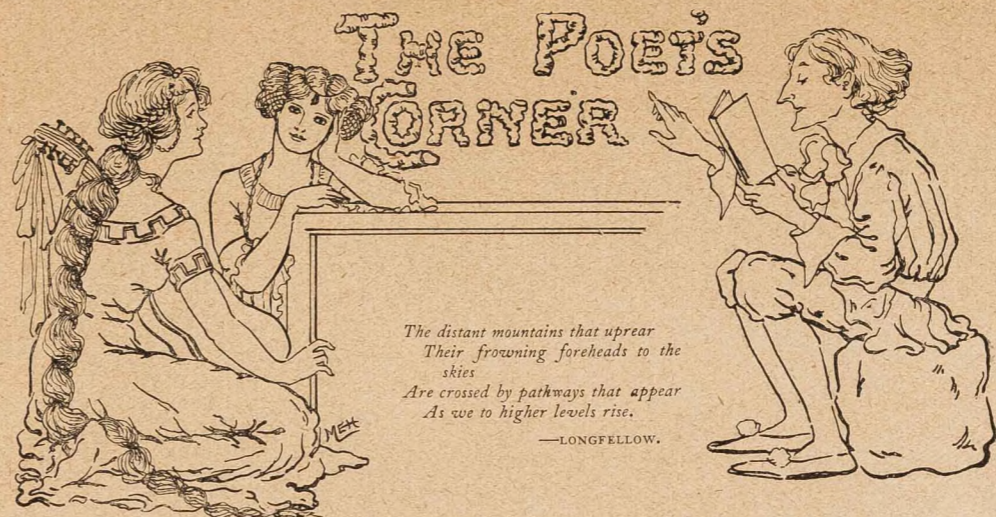
Class A entitles to Trade protection.
(a) Assistance generally in raising wages and improving working conditions;
(b) Free legal advice;
(c) Dispute pay.

Class B entitles to all benefits under Class A, and, in addition, a weekly allowance for a stated period when medically certified as ill, and marriage dowry as per Rule XII.

Class C, all benefits of Class A and B, and, in addition, an allowance to members when unemployed through no fault of their own, and marriage dowry as per Rule XII.

Rule books, 1d. each. Contribution cards, 1d. each.

Further information may be obtained from the general secretary, MISS LOUISA HEDGES, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.



The distant mountains that appear
Their frowning foreheads to the skies
Are crossed by pathways that appear
As we to higher levels rise.
—LONGFELLOW.

To the Women Workers.

Women of a wondrous nation!
Sing a song of exultation;
Song of freedom, song of riches,
Whilst each singer weaves or stitches.
Tend the loom and mind the spindle,
What tho' joy and health may dwindle,
Spin your countless miles of cotton;
All your deepest needs forgotten.

Hard at work in squalid houses,
Making shirts and vests and blouses,
Sewing silks and dainty dresses;
What they cost you no one guesses.
Life's a gamble, life's a lottery,
Daily staked in mill or pottery;
Hide from sight its darker pages,
Toil and earn the sweater's wages.

Others taste each earthly treasure;—
Books and music, love and leisure,
Sea and sand, and summer gladness;
Yours are hunger, want, and sadness.
Come, unite! Join hands together,
Firm in bright or stormy weather;
Then, indeed, throughout the nation
You shall sing with exultation.

Emma Ripley.

The Ninety and Nine.

THERE are ninety-and-nine that work and die
In want, and hunger, and cold,
That one may revel in luxury,
And be lapped in the silken fold!—
The ninety-and-nine in their hovels bare,
And one in a palace of riches rare.

From the sweat of their brow the desert
blooms,
And the forest before them falls;
Their labour has builded humble homes,
And cities with lofty walls.
And the one owns cities, and houses, and
lands,
And the ninety-and-nine have empty hands.

And the night so dreary, and dark, and long,
At last shall the morning bring,
And over the land the Victor's song,
Of the ninety-and-nine shall ring,
And echo afar from zone to zone;
Rejoice, for Labour shall have its own!

People's Paper, Santa Barbara.

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OVERHEARD BY THE LITTLE BIRD

At Preston.

That the local branch here is very proud of having secured the recognition of the Federation by a large firm of tobacco manufacturers.

At Dundee.

"Hurrah! We have won a law case for one of our members. True, the sum involved was only 1/11, but we were allowed 7/- expenses, and an important principle has been conceded. We shall not have to fight a similar case again."

At Londonderry.

That the local union has turned into a branch of the Federation.

That hundreds of new members have been obtained.

That Ireland is not to be left behind in the race.

At the Same Place.

Who was responsible for forgetting to provide a piano for the "social" in the Guildhall? It arrived in time, however. The gathering was a great success, over 3,000 shirt and collar makers being present.

At Taunton.

That the workers at a certain firm are very glad to hear of the organisation proceeding at certain factories in the same trade at Derry.

At the Same Place.

That soon the unfair deductions for cotton will be a thing of the past.

At the Same Place.

That Factory Inspectors have been busy.

At Eley Brothers.

"How well Maud Murray looks!"

At Edmonton.

That the Bank Holiday outing was a great success. That we never, never, never had such a time before! That we hope it will not be the last.

At the Same Place.

That it was splendid to have two days at Bank Holiday. That we do not care about the half-crown, anyhow. That we will make it up in increased wages before very long. That the Union is going strong here.

At Shadwell.

That the tent-makers enjoyed the outing at Newport. But that one of our members hurt her hand in haymaking.

At Shortgrove, Newport.

"How kind of Mrs. Carl Meyer!" "Heaven can't be any nicer!" "I'm so happy I can't speak." "Isn't Mr. Headlam a brick?"

At the Same Place.

"Three cheers for everybody." "Three cheers for ourselves, and many happy returns." "Ring down the curtain."

Everywhere.

That The Woman Worker is come to stay.

Flattery can only buy things of a nature akin to itself.

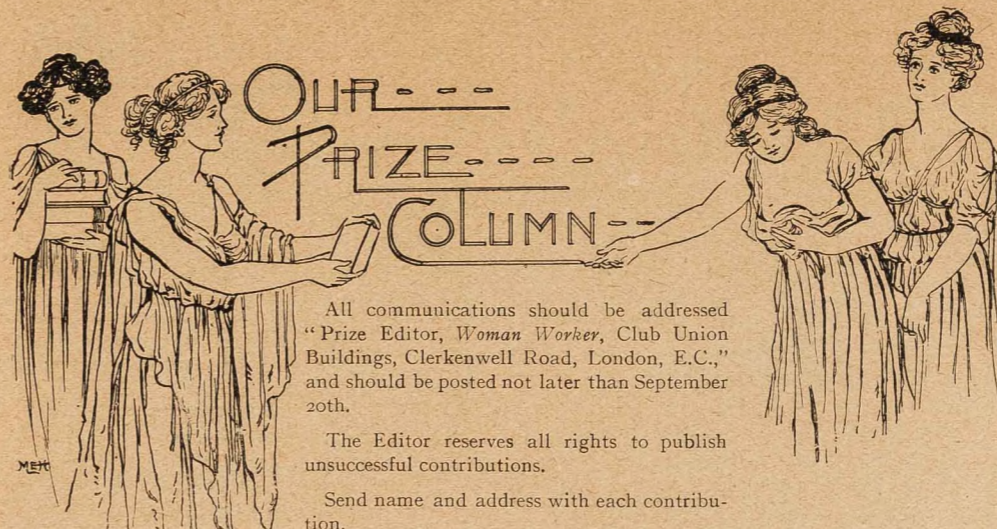
How many throw away their life's noble possibilities in seeking to thrust themselves into another place.

When we begin to claim mercies as a right they are withdrawn from us.

The fewer demands we make on others, the more content we grow.

Deformity will ensue from every attempt to curb our true nature.

Blessed is he who evokes the peculiar goodness of each of his friends.



All communications should be addressed "Prize Editor, Woman Worker, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.," and should be posted not later than September 20th.

The Editor reserves all rights to publish unsuccessful contributions.

Send name and address with each contribution.

Propaganda Prize. 10/-

We anticipate that a good number of our readers will be anxious to help us in making the magazine known, and so assisting the cause of Trade Unionism amongst women. This may be done by selling or distributing copies outside factory gates, by supplying a copy to the local public library, and in other ways.

We offer a prize of 10s. to the reader who sends us the best letter describing the steps she (or he) has taken to popularise the magazine.

Special Offer

To Local Organisations. (Trade Union, Labour, or Socialist Branch.)

To the organisation which disposes of the largest number of copies of The Woman Worker each month, we offer a free lecture. Several Labour M.P.'s have kindly placed their services at our disposal, and the successful branch will have the choice of a Labour M.P. or a popular woman lecturer to address a meeting on a date convenient to

* These Prizes are kindly presented by the proprietor of "Wincella," Ayr, N.B.

the successful organisation, free of all charge or expense.

NOTE.—The Woman Worker may be had on sale or return at 8s. 6d. per gross.

Suggestion Postcard.

* We offer a prize of a charming blouse length of "Wincella" (see Advt. page 12) to the reader who sends us on a post card the best suggestion for the improvement of our magazine. Patterns to choose from will be sent to the winner.

Contribution Prize. 5/-

We offer a prize of 5s. for the best contribution suitable for publication in the magazine. The contribution may be a short article of interest to women workers, a short story, verses, or an original joke or anecdote.

Recipe Prize.

* We offer a charming blouse length of "Wincella" (see Advt. page 12), for the best recipe or household hint written on a post card. Patterns to choose from will be sent to the winner.

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Wincella
REGD., 227,565.

An improved Scotch Wincey, will not shrink or fade, from 1/- per yard upwards. Ideal material for Babies' Dresses, Underclothing, Blouses or Costumes, Men's Shirts, etc.

Hard wearing, yet soft and pretty.

Made in white, all colours and fancy patterns. Single or double widths. Light, medium, or heavy weights.

Patterns and Price List free. State purpose required, and mention "Woman Worker."

See prize offer, page 11.

"I'm getting 'Wincella.'"

MACARTHUR (Dept. X.), AYR, N.B.

A Necessity for Health.

Every lady should know that Southalls' Sanitary Towels are an absolute necessity to health, and that their use is recommended by all leading medical and nursing authorities.

All drapers, ladies' outfitters and chemists sell Southalls' Towels in silver packets containing 1 dozen, at 6d., also manufactured under their improved Patents, 1/-, 1/6 and 2/-.

Let me post you

a sample packet containing six towels in the four standard sizes post free for six stamps. Address, the Lady Manager, 17, Bull Street, Birmingham.

Southalls' Compressed Towels—in tiny silver packets only 2 1/4 ins. long.

Size A, price 1d. Size B, 1 1/2d. Size C, 2d.

SOUTHALLS' SANITARY TOWELS

List of Names and Addresses of Branch Secretaries.

BOURNVILLE.—Mr. J. E. Wain (hon. secretary *pro. tem.*), 194, Maryvale Road, Bournville. Committee meetings the first Tuesday in each month at the Stirchley Institute at 6.30 p.m.

COVENTRY.—Miss Oliver, 14, Alma Street, Coventry.

DERBY.—Mr. S. F. Pritchard (hon. secretary *pro. tem.*), 7, Bars Street, Derby.

LONDONDERRY.—Miss McCarron, 2, Stanley Terrace, Londonderry.

EDINBURGH.—Miss Milne, 27, St. Leonard's Street, Edinburgh.

EDMONTON.—Miss Murray, 23, Somerford Grove, Park Lane, Tottenham.

CLERKENWELL.—Miss L. Hedges, 116, Ivydale Road, Nunhead, London, S.E. Committee meetings the last Friday in each month, at Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, at 8.30 p.m. General meetings the last Friday in the months of June, September, December, and March.

HALSTEAD.—Miss Ada Newton, 6, Causeway, Halstead, Essex.

HULL.—Miss Hall, 19, Clarence Avenue, St. Mark Street, Hull.

OXFORD.—Miss L. Leng, 19, Wellington Street, Oxford.

PRESTON.—Miss A. Walsh, 215, Newhall Lane, Preston.

PAISLEY.—Miss A. Macpherson, 31, New Street, Paisley.

SHADWELL.—Miss L. Crabbe, 18, Holbrook Road, Plaistow Road, West Ham. Committee Meetings, the first Wednesday in each month at the Farrance Street School, Limehouse, E., at 8 p.m.

SILVERTOWN.—Miss L. Gardiner, 19, Buxton Road, Stratford, E.

TAUNTON.—Miss F. Jarmen, 1, Jubilee Street, Rowbarton, Taunton.

WHITECHAPEL.—Miss Melsheimer, 22, Scrafton Road, Ilford.

WOOLWICH.—Mrs. S. E. Stevinson, 9, White Hart Road, Plumstead.

Branch Reports.

Bournville.—The formation of this branch marks the first step in the organisation of the girl workers at Bournville, and is the outcome of a desire to secure to the girl workers of the Birmingham district some of the advantages enjoyed by those employed at Bournville.

At present there are 286 members from this one department, out of a total of 375, and as soon as this branch is in working order, it is intended to approach another department, and to continue in this way until the movement has spread throughout the works.

It is expected that officers will be appointed at a meeting to be held in August, and, in the meantime, the work is in the hands of (Mr.) J. E. Wain, through whose efforts, with the assistance of Miss Macarthur and Mr. Edward Cadbury, the branch was organised.

Coventry.—This branch was started in the beginning of January of this year, as a result of a visit paid by Miss Macarthur during the previous November. An increase of membership has been the result of an organising visit from Mrs. Chew.

Clerkenwell.—The sturdy little band of dress-makers who fought so well to keep together the Dressmakers' Union is now a branch of the Federation. From its members an organising committee has been formed, with Miss Hillary as hon. secretary. The committee has done good work during the last winter amongst the working girls' clubs, and is preparing for another campaign during the coming winter.

Derby.—A branch was formed in Derby by Mrs. Mariand Brodie during May. A recent visit from Mrs. Pete Curran has done much to stimulate the movement, and great hopes are entertained for the future.

Derry.—The Derry Textile Operatives' Society has recently formed a branch of the Federation, with a good membership. This is our latest branch, and we hope to give a fuller account in our next issue.

Edinburgh.—Unfortunately, we have to record a slight falling off in the membership of this branch, although there is every reason to hope that during the coming winter, under the able presidency of Mrs. Lamont, the Edinburgh branch will be as strong as ever. Edinburgh, the first branch of the Federation, should, and will, lead the way.

Edmonton.—This branch has been in existence for nearly a year. Starting with a good membership, it is steadily gaining ground, and despite the efforts of the employers to alienate the members, is still holding its own. Great credit is due to officials, committee, and collectors, who never let an opportunity go by for the improvement and safety of their union. A social committee has been appointed, and arrangements for a garden party, monthly socials, and a grand anniversary entertainment are under discussion. This branch, with some of the members of the other London branches, spent a very enjoyable day at Shortgrove, Newport, Essex, through the kindness of Mrs. Carl Meyer and other kind friends.

Halstead.—The branch here is progressing splendidly, and is making good headway. The members have more than once realised the benefit of being organised, deputations of the workers having been

received by the firm when difficulties have arisen.

Hull.—A branch has recently been established in Hull as a result of a strike amongst the tin workers, owing to a great reduction in their wages. The membership is good, and bids fair to increase.

Oxford.—The Seamstresses and White-workers of Oxford are now organised, and are enthusiastic Trade-Unionists, working hard for the increase of the membership, and striving to organise the workers in other factories.

Preston.—The Preston branch has been very successful during its career. This branch is formed of workers in many different trades, some of whom have succeeded in gaining Union recognition, with very good results. We are extremely grateful to Mr. Williamson, chairman of the local I.L.P., for the help he has given in this direction.

Paisley.—Plucky Paisley! though so far away, still happy in the thought that others are struggling for the same good end, and brought nearer to us all by the bond of friendship which exists amongst all the members of the Federation. Good luck to Paisley!

Shadwell.—Shadwell Branch is doing well. The nucleus is there, and the members all working hard to help their comrades in the factories in the East End of London. Where the men's trade unions are so strong, we should do well, for the men should make clear to the women the advantages they themselves have gained through their trade unions.

Silvertown.—The C.W.S. girls of Silvertown have entered into the movement with a zest that is only equalled by their friends at Whitechapel. They have already felt the benefit of being organised, and take great interest in the Federation. Their first social, which took place in May, was a great success.

Taunton.—This is another branch the formation of which was the result of a strike, which terminated in a compromise. In the hands of such able and enthusiastic officials as Miss Jarmen, Miss Oaten, and Mrs. Jones, we feel that the organisation at Taunton will flourish. An outing has been organised for the members and their friends, and great efforts are being made to forward the work of the Union.

Whitechapel.—The C.W.S. girls of Whitechapel (a branch which sprung from the National Union of Tea-Packers) are still as ardent Trade-Unionists as they ever were, and keep up their membership well. "Things are very different since we started our good old Union. We are perfectly happy now." We hear this often said. May it be an encouragement to the younger Unions who have only just started their career.

Woolwich.—A branch has been formed here, which promises great things in the future. The local Trade-Unionists and the I.L.P. are awake to the fact that the women as well as the men should be organised. Woolwich should meet with success in every way.

[NOTE.—Branches are requested to appoint a correspondent to send local news and reports to the Central Office not later than the 15th day of the month. The branch reports have been contributed this month by the General Secretary, Miss LOUISA HEDGES, but should be furnished in future by local correspondents.]

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The Art of Beauty.

All women wish to be beautiful. It is right that they should, but many do not understand the way to acquire beauty.

In this column month by month we shall give hints and advice which, if followed, will secure for nearly all our readers an improved appearance. Health and beauty go together, and the woman who neglects to follow certain simple rules of health can never be beautiful. Below we give a few elementary hints. In subsequent months we shall deal specially with the complexion, the teeth, the hair, and the hands.

The window of a sleeping-room should always be left open at the top. Dull eyes and muddy complexion often result from failing to observe this simple rule.

Watch what you eat. The girl who drinks too much tea, eats too much pastry or meat, will never secure a complexion of milk and roses. Try drinking milk when possible, instead of tea. Eat green vegetables and salad in season, no pastry at all, and in a very few weeks you will be surprised at the result.

Bathe frequently, every day if possible, but when this is not possible, be careful to wash face, neck, and arms in warm water every night before retiring.

Do not curl your hair with hot irons. If you must use curlers, do not wear them all night. This is responsible for headache, weak eyes, and is bad for the hair. Curlers should not be kept in the hair longer than twenty minutes at a time. Do not waste money on so-called "hair restorers." Brush the hair for ten minutes, if possible, every night; this will make it glossy, and promote growth better than the use of any patent lotion.

Home Hints.

This column will be conducted by Aunt Jean from her home in the far north. She is noted throughout her own district as the most skilful of cooks and the best of housewives.

Readers are invited to send in useful recipes and household hints which have stood personal test, and their attention is directed to the prize competitions on page .

SOME GOOD RECIPES.

Scotch Scones.

1 lb. flour, pinch of salt, teaspoonful each of castor sugar, baking soda, cream of tartar. Rub all lumps out, then add enough buttermilk to make into dough. Divide in pieces, roll out thinly, and fire on a hot girdle.

Syrup Scones.

1 lb. flour, dessert-spoonful butter, 1 teaspoonful each of baking powder and cream of tartar, table-spoonful golden syrup and buttermilk. Rub butter into flour and dry ingredients. Add syrup to milk and make whole into a nice dough. Fire on moderately hot girdle.

Scotch Pancakes.

$\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. flour, 2 table-spoonful castor sugar, 1 table-spoonful cream of tartar, $\frac{1}{2}$ -table-spoonful soda. Mix well. Beat up an egg (or two) lightly, then add it and gradually add a sufficiency of buttermilk to make all into a thick batter. Beat till smooth, let stand for a little while. Make girdle very hot, grease with butter, and place on it in small spoonfuls the batter. When one side is brown turn quickly and bake on the other side. The girdle must be greased freshly for each batch of pancakes.

Some useful recipes for using up cold fish and cold meat next month.

AUNT JEAN.