

# 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. 2.

OCTOBER, 1907.

ONE PENNY.

## EDITORIAL

FIRST, our thanks, sincere and right hearty, are due to all those friends who have given *The Woman Worker* so generous a welcome. Especially are we grateful to those, many of whom are personally unknown to us, who have assisted us in manifold ways.

The circulation of our first number exceeded our most sanguine hopes. The day after publication our first edition was sold out. At the end of a week, more than four times the number of copies we originally asked our printer to estimate for had been sold.

\* \* \*

This splendid result is largely due to those in different parts of the country who have worked so hard in making the magazine known, and in seizing every opportunity for its distribution. We especially direct attention to the letters published in our correspondence column from the propaganda prize-winners. We have received many similar communications, and we can only say that in future issues we hope to be a little more worthy of such whole-hearted service.

\* \* \*

We are also grateful for several letters of kindly criticism. Many of these contain helpful hints which will be utilised. Several of our correspondents complain that we are "elementary." We plead guilty. For some time to come we must remain elementary. The A B C of the Trade Union and Labour Movement has still to be learned by the great majority of the women workers throughout the land. Our primary mission is to appeal to them, but our more advanced readers will find that their needs will not be neglected.



We publish this month a short autobiographical sketch, "Memories of the Mill," from the pen of Mr. George Barnes, M.P. Mr. Barnes is one of the outstanding men in the Labour movement. As the responsible official of one of the greatest of our Trade Unions he is famed for his administrative capacity. He has worked consistently throughout his whole career for the independent representation of Labour in Parliament, he stands high in the counsels of the Labour Party, and was summed up once by Keir Hardie as "the truest of friends and the most loyal of colleagues."

\* \* \*

The National Association of Telephone Operators are to be congratulated upon a most important victory. For some time past there has been great dissatisfaction in Glasgow amongst the night operators as to their periods of duty. These girls had to work

girls as Mr. Perret. He is the concocter of the specious advertisement and—I discovered—the tenant of a small house at Maida Vale where "Nurse X" resides, in case any wary person should pay a personal visit to inspect the "54 articles elaborately tucked and trimmed."

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Mrs. J. R. MacDONALD.

Women's News of the Week.

















Oxford.—Miss Leng writes: "We now have the majority of the workers at our firm in the Union, and think we shall very soon succeed in converting those outside. We are delighted with Mrs. Pete Curran. She and Miss Elvery spoke splendidly at the garden party which Mr. F. Charles so kindly gave to our members on September 14th. We have to thank Mr. Watkins and all the members of Ruskin College for the help they are giving to us. We are holding our meetings the last Friday in the month."

Taunton.—Miss Spence writes: "We had a meeting at the Club Room on August 31st, at which Miss Hedges was the chief speaker. Much regret was felt by all at the absence of Miss Macarthur through illness. We are pleased to report that, in spite of a few of our members falling off, the new ones have more than made up for the deficiency. Well-attended committee meetings are held every alternate week. We are making 'Go forward!' our watchword."

Woolwich.—Mrs. Stevenson writes: "On March 16th, at an Anti-sweating League meeting, a public appeal was made by the secretary of the Trades Council for help to organise the women workers. Several responded and promised to help. As a result, Miss Hedges came to Woolwich and met them, and addressed a meeting of girls at Mulgrave Club on the advantages of Trade Unionism. On June 20th we had a public meeting at the Co-operative Institute, Parson's Hill, when a few girls joined the Union. We are only small in numbers as yet, but are hoping for better results as the advantages are better known. Like the snail, I hope we are slow but sure. We are looking forward to a good winter's work here among the girls. It is proposed to have a social evening early in October to enable

us to talk to the girls who remain at present outside the Union."

#### Greetings from Women in Printing Trade.

MISS MARY ELVERY writes: The Women's Branch of the National Amalgamated Society of Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters give their fraternal greetings to all organised women, and through the medium of this much-needed magazine hope to feel more and more their relation to the great family of women Trade Unionists.

Our Union, which was started sixteen years ago by the late Lady Dilke, to whose devotion to the cause of the working woman we hope to be a worthy memorial, is now progressing very steadily. We have 1,300 members, 850 of whom belong to our London Branch. Our other branches are in Tonbridge, St. Albans, Reading, Gravesend, Oxford, and Birmingham.

Our editor cannot give me enough space to tell you about all of them, but I should like to say a word about our Oxford Branch, which has been the most successful. This branch has only been in existence four months, but because every girl joined it at once they have obtained, instead of a maximum time wage of 11s. 11d., a minimum wage of 15s. per week. They have secured also the increase in their piece-rates, and have abolished a vicious bonus system. Their secretary, Miss Gomm, and many others, now feel they want to do something to help other girls and women to organise, that they also may get a just price for the only article they have to sell, namely, their labour.

Just a word about our London Branch: We have lately been able to close down to non-unionists most of the principal shops; we are getting into our ranks a new shop nearly every week, and are becoming known as a force that has to be reckoned with. This month we are discussing a minimum time and piece-work rate for the whole of London which we will endeavour to get recognised by the Master Printers and Allied Trades Association. If they refuse—well, we shall work harder than ever at organisation. We have the Printing and Allied Trades to support us, and ultimately we shall obtain our bargain of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

### PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

**THE Second Annual Conference of the National Federation of Women Workers, will be held on Saturday, 23rd November, at Club Union Buildings, London. Resolutions for the Agenda and all Nominations for Committee and Officials should be sent to the General Secretary not later than November 1st.**

**All Branches should endeavour to send Delegates.**

**Week End Tickets can be had from most Provincial Districts.**



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."



"The getting 'Wincella'."

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

## Dr. ALLINSON'S FOOD for Babies

No other food can equal it. THE ONLY KNOWN ROYAL TWINS—viz., those of Prince Frederick Charles of Hesse, who are nephews to King Edward VII.—were reared on it, and it is sent regularly to them. FOR SUFFERERS from Stomach Troubles, such as Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Gastric Catarrh, Ulcer of the Stomach, and Wasting Diseases, it is the best and cheapest known. It has been the means of many thousands being restored to health, strength, and ability to work. A baby's digestive powers are very limited, and it is therefore one of the primary essentials of robust growth and development that the child should take food which is capable of easy assimilation. The ignorance of this fact is the chief reason for the alarming mortality amongst young children. A long and special study of this great question resulted in the introduction of **DR. ALLINSON'S NATURAL FOOD**. The great food specialist designed this preparation with a view to imparting the maximum amount of nutrition to children at a minimum expenditure of digestive energy. It is **NOURISHING** and **SUSTAINING** in the **HIGHEST DEGREE**. Makes flesh, muscle, bone and brain.

### Dr. ALLINSON'S FOOD FOR BABIES

IS SOLD BY

Chemists, Grocers, Bakers, Corn Dealers, Co-operative Stores and others, in 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d. and 5s. Tins.

If any difficulty in obtaining it, a 1s. or 2s. 6d. tin containing 4lbs. weight will be sent carriage paid, on receipt of remittance value 1s. or 2s. 6d. by

**THE NATURAL FOOD COMPANY, LTD.,**  
(Room 210) 305, Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green, London, E.

#### List of Names and Addresses of Branch Secretaries.

ABINGDON.—Miss Leng, 19, Wellington Street, Oxford.

BATH.—Miss Clark, 73, The Triangle, Bath.

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

COVENTRY.—Miss Oliver, 14, Alma Street, Coventry. Meetings held the first and third Wednesdays in the month at Alexandra Coffee Tavern, Ford Street, at 8 o'clock. All are welcome.

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.

NORWICH.—Miss M. Bird, 30, Northcote Road, Sprowston, Norwich.

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.

CENTRAL OFFICE.—Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C. General Secretary, Miss Louisa Hedges.

The Simple Life - - Walt Whitman.  
The True Atheism - - Russell Lowell.

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**Trade Union Congress.**

The Trade Union Congress, held at Bath in September, was attended by 521 delegates, representing nearly 2,000,000 organised men and women.

Elizabeth Glen represented the Telephone Operators, whilst the National Federation of Women Workers sent Louisa Hedges and Mary Macarthur. Miss Tuckwell, Miss Constance Smith, and Miss Elvery were amongst the members of the Women's Trade Union League who were present as visitors.

The Federation resolution calling for a legal minimum wage in Sweated Industries was carried unanimously.

Bath is not an industrial town, but the meeting for women workers held in the Guildhall was well attended, and a small branch of the Federation was formed later in the week.

The Annual Conference of the League was a great success. Over 250 delegates were present.

Resolutions were passed condemning the wretched Laundry Act passed by the Government, and calling for the report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Truck Acts.

Next year Congress will be held in Nottingham.

\* \* \*

**Women and Wages.**

"CONSIDER, too, the wages which our civilisation allots to adult able-bodied women. It is difficult to believe that the 'shilling-a-day' wages of unskilled women in the East End of London, the 6s. or 7s. per week earned by the Belfast rope-maker or the tobacco-worker, or even the 10s. or 12s. earned at piece-work by the skilled linen-weaver or Glasgow cotton-mill operative, represents any appreciable advance on the scale of the past generation. Women's wages for unskilled labour still gravitate as a rule pretty close to the subsistence level, below which they can never have sunk for any length of time. Out of the four millions of women who are working for wages at the present time, a very large percentage must be earning practically no better subsistence than their grandmothers did. It is at least doubtful whether any previous age could show so large a total number at this low level."—SYDNEY WEBB, in "Labour in the Longest Reign."

**NATIONAL REFORM INSTITUTE.**

WE have much pleasure in calling attention to the attempt being made to erect in London a suitable edifice in which the hundred organisations making for social betterment may find a common centre and habitation. The need of a clearing house of social reform has been long felt, and it is clearly stated in a circular issued by Mr. G. Holroyd Edwards, on behalf of a committee which has undertaken to raise funds in order that a wide appeal may be made in the interests of the proposed institute. Any readers of *The Woman Worker* who can aid with a donation should forward it at once to Mr. Edwards at 6, Plowden Buildings, Middle Temple Lane, London, E.C.

THE  
**W O M A N  
W O R K E R**

FOR NOVEMBER

Will contain, amongst many other interesting features:—

"Federationists at Christiana," by Pete Curran, M.P.

"Partners." The first instalment of a Serial Story by Constance Hintor Smith.

"Living In," by Margaret G. Bondfield.

Portrait & Character Sketch of Ada Neild Chew.

"The Parable of the Boy and the Nuts."

Special Articles on the Glasgow Conference on Sweating and the Clarion Exhibition.

**READ THIS!**

An explanation of the Constitution of Garden City Press Ltd., addressed to those seeking employment in its works.

**G**ARDEN CITY PRESS LTD. is a Co-partnership Society. Any person above the age of 16 employed by it may become a member and share in the responsibilities of management, in the profits or losses, and in furnishing share capital. There is a code of 21 Special and 126 General Rules comprising the constitution, a copy of which may be obtained on payment of 6d.

Each new employee passes through a probation period of twelve months, during which he receives the full rate of pay agreed upon as wages. At the end of twelve months, he must join the Society, that is, become a member (shareholder), or resign his situation. Should he join the Society, he must sign for ten £1 shares: payment for his services ceases to be by wages, and instead he becomes entitled to a share of the earnings of the business, very much as in a private partnership. The method is as follows: His work continues to be estimated at the same value as before, but payment for services cannot become absolute until each half-yearly balance sheet (made up to January 31 and July 31) is issued, when, if the amount earned by the business is sufficient, payment for the full value so estimated is made, and a further 10 per cent. (2/- in the £) added, the latter being placed to the credit of the member as shares on the books of the Society.

As it is obvious that few working men would be able to wait six months for their share of the earnings, a special arrangement is made by which, week by week, three-quarters of each individual's estimated earnings are lent to him by the Society, the remainder being paid at the close of each half-year if the profit

\*If there still remained a surplus of profit, he would be credited with a share of that also.

**GARDEN CITY PRESS is strictly a Trade Union House. The working hours are 48 per week.**

A copy of the above conditions is handed to every new employee engaged by the GARDEN CITY PRESS LTD. It constitutes the worker's charter, and is

**THE SECRET OF OUR SUCCESS  
AS FINE PRINTERS.**

A member of a large London firm of printers has expressed astonishment at the variety, quality, and volume of our output. He finally came to the conclusion that the reason for it lay in the **new spirit** which animates our whole staff. We appreciate the testimony, and feel its truthfulness.

Your Orders and inquiries for General Printing will be esteemed and promptly attended to.

**GARDEN CITY PRESS Ltd., FINE PRINTERS, Letchworth, HERTS.**

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OVERHEARD  
BY  
THE LITTLE BIRD

At Bath.

That a branch of the Federation was formed here during Congress week.

That the Women's Trade Union League meeting was a great success, and so was the Conference.

At the Same Place.

That Miss Hedges received a good vote for the Parliamentary Committee.

At the Same Place.

"Where is Margaret Bondfield?"

At the Cedars.

"Do you belong to the Union?" "Course I belong to the Union, don't you?" "Rather! and I think *everyone* ought to! Look what the Union has done for us!"

At Edmonton.

That the magazines were heavy; but, never mind, we've sold them nearly all.

At the Same Place.

That the garden party was a great success.

That the anniversary social will be a greater success.

At Head Office.

More orders for *The Woman Worker*; and still they come.

At the Same Place.

Our first number is sold out; no more can be had for love or money.

At Oxford.

That the garden party was jolly!

That Mrs. Curran is charming.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Charles.

At the Same Place.

We can't think why the others do not come into the Union.

That we mean to stick to our guns.

At Taunton.

That the secretary of our branch is a brick.

At Hull.

Isn't the magazine interesting?

At Clerkenwell.

That the telephone has its disadvantages. "Who are you, please?"

At Preston.

That we like *The Woman Worker* very much.

At Aberdeen.

That the Shop Assistants had a fine meeting here.

*The Woman Worker* was on sale.

At Alva, N.B.

The annual social was a great success. *The Woman Worker* sold well. Our members are delighted with it.

## Felt Hatters & Trimmers' Unions

### DON'T COMPLAIN!

About **hard conditions of Toil** and **Sweating**, and then go out and without discrimination, purchase your commodities.

**Whenever it is possible** buy

"Union-made Goods." And

in buying Felt Hats **insist** upon seeing the Union Label under the leather.



YOU will thus help to **raise the standard of life** of the Workman, his Wife and Family.

No Woman should **tolerate** a man who wears an Unlabelled Hat!

The Union Label, as above, is printed in Black Ink on Pink Paper, and is placed **under the leather** in UNION-MADE HATS by the WORKPEOPLE ONLY, during Manufacture.

**LOOK FOR THE LABEL & BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS.**

THOMAS MALLALIEU, General Secretary,  
113, MANCHESTER ROAD, DENTON.