

WHIMSICAL WINNIE ON CATSMEAT
WOMEN'S SERVICE

JUNE, 1919

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THE WOMAN WORKER:



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Laundry
Meeting

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PUBLISHED
MONTHLY

A JOURNAL FOR
WOMEN TRADE UNIONISTS

AWARDS AND ORDERS

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The Woman Worker

"We wrestle against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

No. 41 (New Series) A PAPER FOR WOMEN TRADE UNIONISTS June, 1919

Some More Commissions.

1.—The Cats' Meat Trade.

By WHIMSICAL WINNIE

Witness: Lord Alfred Skewer, President of the Cats' Meat Syndicate.

Lord Alfred agreed that his syndicate now controlled almost the whole trade in cats' meat. He did not regard this as publicly disadvantageous and he believed that a majority of the cats approved of it. (Cries of "me-ow!" "me-ow!" heard in the distance.)

No Government could run the cats' meat trade, which was a very intricate one. Profits were, no doubt, high, but increases in the wages of cats' meat men would ruin the industry and lead to the discarding of hundreds of thousands of cats.

The Chairman: "Cats' meat would go to the dogs." (Laughter and applause from several terriers.)

Replying to Sir Leo Chiozza Money, Lord Skewer said he didn't like nationalisation because he did like cats. He was aware that several of the Colonial Governments purveyed cats' meat, but Colonial cats would eat anything. Moreover Colonial cats didn't caterwaul like the British species and, therefore, did not require the same quality of food.

He did not think that the national shipyards could be used for frying cats' meat, which would lose its flavour unless cooked in a cellar kitchen.

Asked by the Secretary of the National Amalgamated Union of Cats' Meat Men whether he had ever entered one of these kitchens, Lord Skewer replied in the negative. He admitted also that he had never cooked any cats' meat.

Miss Priscilla Prim (President of the League of Kindness to Cats): Have you ever eaten any?

Lord Skewer: Certainly not.

Miss Prim: How then do you know it is fit for cats' consumption?

(A large Tom cat which had been dozing in the back of the court astonished the Commission at this point by suddenly calling out, "Hear, hear.")

The witness agreed that cats' meat was often cooked in insanitary places, but alleged that the cats liked it all the better on that account. (Here the Tom cat called out, "Liar!" and, being revealed as a disguised cats' meat man was ejected.)

Replying to Mr. Bottomley, Lord Skewer admitted that he was interested in the manufacture of German sausages. He was not, however, a German spy, and was willing, if allowed, to turn the Kaiser and the Crown Prince into cats' meat. He was in favour of the issue of More Beer, and of Raoting on Sundays. He had never spoken to Mr. Asquith in his life. (Mr. Bottomley having intimated that he had been mistaken in the witness, the twain shook hands heartily.)

After Mrs. Sidney Webb had argued that what the cats' meat trade required was a national minimum wage and an occupational vote, and Mr. Outhwaite had shown that cats had always been in favour of a tax on land values, it was agreed that for the present the industry would be handed over to Sir Leo Chiozza Money who would report upon it to a subsequent meeting.

A Voice from the Laundries

A wonderful meeting was held last month at the Central Hall, Westminster. The laundry workers of London had been invited—and they had responded to the appeal. The hall was crowded out with laundry workers—workers who all their lives had known how hard laundry work can be; and inspiring as the audience was—the speakers were even more wonderful. Except Miss Symons and the Chairman, Mr. Lansbury—to whom every woman in the audience felt grateful—every speaker was a worker in the trade. They reached the audience in a way impossible to any practised orator. Here was London speaking with all the Londoner's wit and readiness and with the passionate earnestness born of absolute sincerity. Their lives had been hard—incredibly hard—but they had not been beaten by life. They were no mere pathetic figures of endurance, but women ready to march forward to freedom.

The meeting opened with an address from Mr. Lansbury, forward, as ever, to promote every good cause. Miss Symons then explained the provisions of the award (which we have set out in full elsewhere), and outlined the struggles of the Federation in obtaining this instalment of justice.

A Five Minutes Fight.

Then came the turn of the workers. Mrs. Goodsall spoke first. She said: "I have worked in a laundry 20 years myself, and had hard times. I have worked 60 hours a week for ten bob a week—('So have we!') Hear, hear)—from eight o'clock in the morning till nine o'clock on Monday night, eight o'clock on Tuesday, and 9.30 on Wednesday and Thursday—sixty hours a week! And they thought they was giving us extraordinary good pay at ten bob!"

"Now we've got a rise in our wages, since the first of May, and our employers tell us 'You must not have five minutes to put your boots on!' (Loud applause and laughter.)

"At the present time now I am doing a man's work on the machine in the wash-house; we get wet through to the skin, feet and all. On Friday night, when I took my women upstairs three minutes to the half-hour, the manageress said, 'You must not have five minutes now—we can't give it on these hours.' I said, 'But we will have five minutes.' (Loud cheers and laughter.) 'Would you like to go home with your skirt wringing with water? We're not going to.'

"Then she said: 'Mrs. Goodsall, you can have your five minutes.'" (Loud laughter and applause.)

Hard Times.

Mrs. Woodhouse came next. She said: "I have been an ironer myself, and I've been an ironing room forewoman. I've never been an

ironer lately because I don't see the fun of having three or four children, and a man out of work, and me having to keep the home going on ten bob. Some years ago I was placed like a good many of my work-chums and girls working under me now have also been placed—I had a man out of work. I was working at a local laundry. I was not earning sufficient to keep my three children, who laid in one bed with measles too ill to be got up. In the morning my husband—and a good many of you can verify this statement—would get up and go out and look for a job. He would walk all round Fulham—we are on Fulham Heights—he'd have a 'mike' here, there, and everywhere; get back again about ten to eight to mind the kiddies in bed while I dodged off and done a day's work. If there was a chance for him to hop out again, he'd go off at dinner time if he heard of anything going, while I was home. Needless to say, I could not make two ends meet.

A Soldier's Wife.

"In those days we were working at 10s. a week. Are we any better off on our 30s.? ('No!') Has anybody suffered more in this accursed war than the laundry workers? You all know what I've got lying in a Belgian grave, and you all know what I've got come home to me—(cries of 'A blind husband!') Yes, I've got a blind husband come home to me. I'm proud of him—he has done his bit. (Loud applause and cheers.) I am not speaking to a lot of strangers—I am speaking to pals that I have worked with; and I say, girls, we never did have in our lives before the wages that we are having now. But are we having enough? ('No.') What is going to happen? We girls, we women, we've worked. There was money enough in England to slaughter our boys—there's money enough to keep them! ('Hear, hear,' and loud applause.)

"If England can keep all those millions of men to be slaughtered fighting—then England can keep the working man and the working woman; and it is a crying disgrace to women that so many married women have got to work, or see their little children go down in hunger." (Applause.)

Started at Eleven.

Mrs. Smith said: "I have been in the laundry ever since I was eleven, and I am now thirty-nine. When I was eleven years old I had a very unfortunate father with a family of thirteen. I got a certificate from the school, and then I had to go out to work. I went into laundry work at 3s. 6d. a week and my food—(laughter)—from seven o'clock in the morning, and I never went to bed till after eleven o'clock at night. I very seldom had time for a wash, and when I went home once a week my mother had to wash me!"

"We were in the north-east of London, and I live and work there to-day, but not in the same laundry. In the laundry where I worked I had enteric fever.

"That was before I had my baby. When I had my baby I found I could not pay 8s. a week to have my baby minded and go out to work on that, so I went into munitions. I was on aeroplane work on the carburettors till last February. I came out of that. Of course, through that I joined the Women's Federation.

"We had never heard of the laundry work being organised in North-East London, because it never had been organised there; so I have put in these few weeks to organise my mates. Everyone came in, practically.

An Exhilarating Interview.

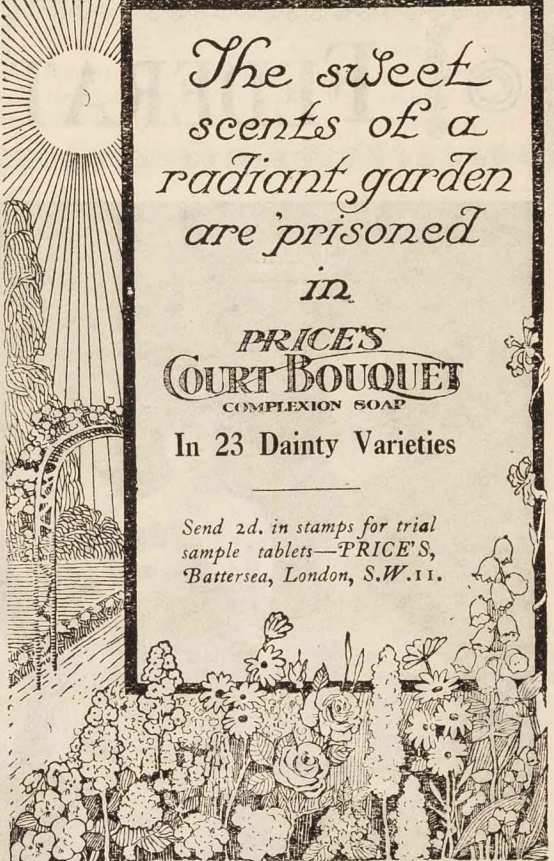
"To-day I saw the head of our laundry. I went to him with my badge and asked to see him—I took it all on my own. If he threw me out I could have got up again. I said, 'I have just called to ask what you are going to do regarding the betterment of the women.' I said, 'Can you give me an idea of a woman's ordinary day's work? When I have worked for you I have worked from nine o'clock Tuesday till eight o'clock every night and till four o'clock Saturday, and the most I could earn with the pick of the work was 25s.!' ('Shame!') And I put myself in a hospital with enteric fever over that. I have kept my children—my husband's money was so small that I was bound to do it—and I was afraid to leave in case I didn't get another job. Listen to me, fellow-workers. Every fellow-worker should be your friend, and you should do what you can for your friend. If it is an injustice, stand by that friend and see it right. ('Hear, hear,' and applause.)

Get the "Herald" and "Woman Worker."

"You people are well satisfied with Mr. Lansbury to-night. ('Hear, hear,' and applause.) He says to you that he is the editor of a little paper called the "Herald." (Loud applause.) If you want to know what is going on, read the 'Daily Herald'—it is your paper. There is a cock fowl that lets you know it is there, but you would never hear the cock fowl crow unless you bought it. I want you all to buy the 'Daily Herald' and also the 'Woman Worker.' No home is correct without the 'Woman Worker.' Whoever a woman is, whether she is in a laundry or in any other occupation, she ought to buy his. The 'Woman Worker' tells you what you want to know. It tells you a great deal more than some people want you to know. (Applause and laughter.) It advises us what we can do, and what we are to ask our Federation to do, and what our Federation will do for us."

Miss Bondfield wound up the meeting by a speech in which she impressed on all present the vital necessity of standing by their organisation.

Altogether a memorable meeting. Most hearty thanks are due to Miss Seruya and to Miss Ferne, who worked indefatigably for many weeks at the task of organisation.



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What is Engineering?

Mr. Givens has won another case. The girls at the Coventry Plating and Press Co. asked for the 5s. increase. The firm refused on the ground that they there not an engineering shop. After a long and careful hearing, it was decided that the firm were engineers; and that the girls must receive the 5s. as from January 1st.

Blackleg-Proof.

Mrs. Givens writes from Coventry to say that the "Wool Factory" is now solid for trade unionism. Every girl has come in—and after only a month's work. We expect to publish some more news from Mrs. Givens about this firm next month.

An Award Needed.

We hear from St. Albans that some laundry workers are only receiving 19s. for 62½ hours' work. We also hear, however, that this state of affairs is not likely to last long, as they have all joined the Federation.

Miss Lees, of Letchworth, writes to say that the Spirella Corset Company put the Clothing Order into operation the very first week it was issued. In fact, they have done even better than the Award and have given the girls who have been there a good time 8d. per hour. Our members are, of course, very pleased.

FEDERATION NOTES



SOME SHOP STEWARDS AT BROOK GREEN

We are printing this month a photograph of a group of our Shop Stewards at Brook Green. We have received two photos, but, unfortunately, our space will only allow our putting one in this month, but hope to put the other one in shortly. Our Secretary at Brook Green tells us things are progressing very well and the question of waiting time is now nearly settled. * * * *

All In.

Miss Pownall writes:—
We are making good progress in Birmingham and are now well on towards enrolling 3,000 new members this year.

The G. E. C. Witton has been a discouraging shop to our organisers, but at last they are rewarded for their perseverance. All the women have joined the Federation and we are trying to bring the Carbon workers under the 5s. award.

In several cases we are kept busy in regard to the 5s. award and retrospective payment, and have had considerable success in this direction.

We received a cheque for £60 retrospective payment for three of our members who had never received any increase, and as a token of appreciation the three members presented the divisional organiser with a silver mounted umbrella.

A Deptford Demand.

The Federation has sent in a demand on behalf of its members to Messrs. Hoar and Marr, of Deptford. They are asking that all women may receive a minimum wage of 35s. a week; that the working week should be reduced to forty-four hours; that overtime at the rate of time and a quarter shall be paid for, and that overalls shall be provided. * * * *

Our District Councils.

District Division F (c) held its Council meeting at Wolverhampton on May 3rd, Miss E. Dunn presiding. The following resolutions were carried:—

"1. That the Executive of the N.F.W.W. be asked to take steps to ensure that no girl under twenty-one shall be refused the donation because she refuses to take work, other than domestic service, at a long distance from home, and, secondly, that no girl shall be deemed to have refused suitable employment unless she has refused a specific job."

"2. That this meeting is in favour of the payment of an adequate pension paid by the State to widowed mothers to enable them to stay at home and bring up their own children."

Bradford Still Alive.

The Secretary of Bradford No. 1 Branch reports that they held a very successful District Council meeting on May 17th. Very good reports were received from delegates representing the different branches. Arising out of the Bradford report, delegates stated that they hoped by the next District Council meeting, with the help of the new Organiser (Miss Lilian Barton, from Coventry) to be able to report very good progress.

After the District Council had completed their business, delegates were provided with a meat tea by the Bradford No. 1 Branch at the Co-operative Café, so right through the Trade Union spirit was in the hearts of the Bradford Branch. Wishing THE WOMAN WORKER every success. * * * *

Straw Workers Joining.

Members at Luton were very much heartened by Miss Bondfield's speech at a well-attended meeting for straw workers. Sweating still exists, especially in this trade. Many straw workers have joined this last week or so. * * * *

From the Home Counties.

The members at Hertford are being tried very hard. What a fight the employers are putting up to prevent the wages being raised! Do not be disheartened. Remember you have everything to gain and precious little to lose.

Some girls at the Spirella still think the rise has dropped from heaven or the very kind employers have put their bonus on to their wages, with a rise as well. Members at that firm, please read Statutory Rules and Orders 357, and pass them on to these doubting Thomases.

Members at the Arlesey Inspection Bond send many thanks for their rise. They all believe it to be the Federation's work.

There is still room in the branch for new members, even if they are unemployed. * * * *

We have just won an interesting case. The girls at the Battersea Projectile came out on strike. They were away from work on the Friday night before the holidays and on the Monday following the holidays. On that Monday the workers went in deputation to the Ministry of Labour and were advised to return to work at once, after which the Ministry would investigate the case. They did so on the Tuesday morning, and were not admitted. The workers sued the employer at the Munitions Court for a week's wages in lieu of notice. They won the case, but the employers appealed. As we write, the news comes in that the judge has upheld the decision of the Munitions Court. The workers will, therefore, all receive a week's money. * * * *

Our branch at Ripley has progressed very much during the past few weeks. The whole of the workers at Crossley and Morgans, cotton doublers, joined up in February. In March we held meetings for the workers at the Ripley Manufacturing Co. They responded splendidly and are now well organised. Miss Woodhead interviewed their manager, Mr. Williams, re Easter holiday arrangements. He asked her, before discussing any business, if she would tell him how many girls were in the Union. She informed him that all but four

or five of their employees and all the other cotton workers in the district. He replied that he was very pleased to hear the news, being himself a member of a masters' organisation, and he preferred to deal with the employees' representative rather than with the different girls whenever a grievance arose.

The members are all pleased with the fact that Mrs. Ollerenshaw, Mount Pleasant, Ripley, who has done such good work in the Co-operative Guild, has taken over the secretaryship. She and the Committee are busy arranging a social side of the branch. As the members work well together, they wish to play well together. * * * *

London and South District Council.

A very successful meeting of the London and South District Council took place at Dilke House, Malet Street, W.C.1, on May 11th.

Resolutions were passed on (1) Shorter hours for mothers; (2) Pensions for mothers; (3) Raising of the blockade; (4) Withdrawal of troops from Russia; (5) Conscription; (6) Protesting against the peace terms. Many thanks were due to our President, Miss Margaret Craig, for the splendid way in which she conducted the meeting.

At the close of the meeting a most exciting incident took place when one of the delegates from head office announced Mr. Kershaw's success in Friern Barnet, and a note of congratulation from the Council was written there and then and placed in his office for his arrival on Monday morning. A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Tuck to the City of London branch for supplying tea, which was appreciated by all delegates present; also to Miss Laurie Lawrence, who prepared it so successfully. The secretary wishes especially to thank Miss Weaver for the great help she gave during the first few months that the Council was formed. * * * *

Mrs. Coombes Returns Thanks.

Our members at Messrs. Shoppee presented Mrs. Coombes with a beautiful Worcester teapot and hot water jug, as a token of appreciation for her work for them. Mrs. Coombes is delighted and has asked the editor to tell our readers so.

We hear that her old friends at Messrs. Francis have also made her a presentation. Mrs. Coombes says that she has a deep feeling towards her old work-mates at this firm and wants to thank them one and all. * * * *

Some Negotiation.

Mrs. Holloway has just triumphantly concluded a very troublesome piece of business. Some difficulty had arisen between the men and women workers at Messrs. W. H. Smith (Strand) on account of the annual holiday. The firm gave a ten days' holiday to all its employees, beginning on a Friday evening. The girls asked to be allowed to work on Saturday and return on the following Wednesday week. This was granted. The men asked for the same privilege and were refused. A great deal of dissatisfaction ensued. Thanks to Mrs. Holloway's endeavours, the matter was finally settled by ALL the workers receiving the extra day. All are delighted and the utmost harmony now exists between the women and the men. * * * *

The Woman Worker

JUNE, 1919

Can be obtained from W. H. Smith and Son and most Newsagents.

LITERARY COMMUNICATIONS, with which stamped addressed envelopes should be enclosed, may be sent to the EDITOR, DILKE HOUSE, MALET STREET, W.C.1. Care will be taken to return rejected MSS., but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for their loss or damage.

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Subscription for the year, post free, 1s. 6d. Special terms for large orders. Apply to the MANAGER, DILKE HOUSE, MALET STREET, W.C.1. Telephone: Museum 801.

The Editor Talks

A Great Swindle. Resentment is spreading among men and women workers with regard to the unemployment donation.

The worker has a right to unemployment pay, if he or she fulfils the conditions set down in the Acts.

Owing partly to the general political situation, and partly to the want of any constructive policy of the Government, very little work is available. The Government desire to reduce the number of unemployed workers—a very laudable wish—but instead of doing this by providing employment they have set up fresh machinery for altering the definition of a "worker." Married women, for instance, are not "workers" if their husbands are at work.

A new committee of inquiry has been set up, whose decisions are without appeal. The machinery whereby the worker was (in accordance with the Acts) allowed an appeal to the referees and to the umpire has been scrapped as far as large classes of workers are concerned. For them there is no appeal, their rights are settled by a little handful of unknown persons meeting at the Labour Exchange.

We give two typical cases of the decisions of our new departmental masters.

Mrs. S— received unemployment dona-

tion. She was unable to obtain any work from the Labour Exchange, though, as she writes, "we have been next door to starving, and I would take anything that was offered me." Her unemployment donation was refused, on the ground, as far as we can fathom the minds of the Committee, that her husband was receiving unemployment donation. He is a soldier, has been seriously injured, and is in receipt of 13s. 9d. pension, so that it is exceedingly difficult for him to obtain work.

Another case is that of Mrs. B. She was a worker before marriage. Her husband, who had been working on the railway, became incurably ill last year, and is in receipt of 5s. a week allowance. Mrs. B. started work at Messrs. Vickers in July, 1918, and was dismissed on account of the armistice. She has been unable to obtain work, although she has made numerous attempts. Her unemployment donation has been stopped, apparently on the ground that she was not employed in the earlier part of the war.

We give these cases at length in order to show the gross injustice to which married women as bread-earners are subjected. We suppose that these workers and their soldier husbands may now apply to the cold comfort of the poor law. It is all that is left to them.

Miss Bondfield has started **Our American for America. She is the Sisters.** first woman who has received the honour of being elected by the British Trade Union Congress as their fraternal delegate to the Convention of the American Federation of Labour.

She will also attend the annual conference of the Women's Trade Union League of America. The American Women's Trade Union League have a great work in hand. They are organising a Women's International Labour Congress to be held immediately before the first sitting of the official League of Nations Labour Conference. This will be held in October next in America; and the object of the Women's Trade Union League is to give the women workers of the world the opportunity of expressing their views before this most important meeting. We wish our sisters in America every success.

Houses Wanted.

The Housing and Town Planning Bill is now nearly through the House of Commons. It is, on the whole, a good Bill, provided that we can secure good local authorities. We shall need them if we are to put an end to the housing scandal. Long before the war, the housing of the workers was getting worse and worse. The census of 1911 actually showed that more people were over-crowded than in 1901. And the crowding and scarcity of houses is only one part of the difficulty.

In London, for instance, about 180,000 persons are living in houses which ought to have been condemned long ago by the local authorities on account of structural defects and over 360,000 more are living in houses

so old or so damp or so verminous as to be unfit for human habitation. London is not nearly so bad as many a provincial town, and yet we have more than half a million of people living under conditions which are absolutely dangerous to health. They have no choice, there are no other houses for them to occupy. Merely to provide healthy houses, not to provide enough houses, half a million people need to be rehoused in our capital.

Now it is the town and the county authorities who are responsible for the present state of things, and who have the power if they choose to remedy it. And yet—and yet—Labour has a majority on no County Council and on only a few small other authorities. It is time for women to bestir themselves.

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

We intend to publish monthly the names of the branches who have done best in the sale of "The Women Worker."

The following is our first list:—

Bermondsey	...	...	53	dozen.
Brook Green	...	...	40	"
Hull	...	...	30	"
Birmingham	...	...	25	"
Park Royal	...	...	16	"

(Glasgow, Aberdeen, Manchester, Newcastle, Redditch, Bradford, and Sheffield, please copy!)

MISTRESSES v. MAIDS.

Miss Stephens and Mrs. Lauder have broken fresh ground. Miss Stephens visited Glasgow and had a most successful series of meetings of domestic servants. Then the bright idea struck someone of calling a meeting of mistresses. The meeting was arranged, and proved a sensational success. The hall was packed—many mistresses being unable to secure admission. Miss Stephens opened the proceedings in a quarter of an hour's speech; then the meeting took charge, and questions and discussions lasted for about two hours.

Finally, the mistresses agreed to hold another meeting, and to appoint a committee to meet the branch executive in order to discuss the demands put forward on behalf of the domestic workers.

This is a most hopeful result, and nothing but good can come from such a decision.

London is about to follow suit. A meeting for mistresses will be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18th, in the Y.W.C.A. Hall, 26 George Street, Hanover Square, W.1.

As we have said before, great things may be hoped of such an endeavour to bring both sides together.

The City of London branch meets on the first Tuesday in each month (except Holiday weeks) at Dilke House, at 7 p.m. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 3rd.

The Home Secretary has given notice of two draft Welfare Orders. They concern jam and laundry workers. The Laundry Order provides: (1) that waterproof aprons and waterproof boots or clogs shall be supplied to workers on wet processes, and overalls for sorters; (2) that there shall be suitable cloak-room accommodation, with arrangements for drying; (3) that mess-rooms shall be provided; and (4) that drinking water, first-aid requisites, and washing facilities shall also be provided. The Jam Order is to the same effect with regard to cloak-rooms, mess-rooms, washing facilities; but there is no mention of drinking water. Protective clothing must be supplied for workers in preparing and boiling fruit, finishing and covering jam, spinning on tops, and any wet process. Further seats must be provided for all workers engaged in fruit peeling, sorting, or picking, jam finishing, and covering—so that they can do their work sitting down; and others who work standing must be "provided with such facilities for sitting as will enable them to take advantage of opportunities for resting."

These rules, when made compulsory, will work a revolution in some jam factories. We remember one—in particular—not a hundred miles from this office—where truckers were actually fined if they sat down for a moment.

Notes from Woolwich.

The Arsenal Branch has gone through a very difficult time owing to the great number of discharges from the Arsenal, but we are glad to be able to report that our shop stewards have never lost heart, and have set to work to build up a branch of local members. The Social Sub-committee has help a very great deal to keep the members together by running weekly dances. Now that the fine weather has come, we are forming an outdoor games club to take the place of the dances, and hope soon to have tennis and swimming for all who want them.

Arbitrations, Awards & Agreements

The Laundry Award.

We printed in our Stop Press in last month's WOMAN WORKER notes of the Laundry Award. The award is so important to our members that we now give a more detailed summary.

The parties to the award are the National Federation of Laundry Associations, Ltd., and the National Federation of Women Workers. The award affects London laundry workers only.

The minimum rates for a 48 hours' week are as follows:—

Women 18 years of age and over—28s. per week, being 24s. wage and 4s. war advance;
Girls 17 and under 18—24s. per week, being 20s. wage and 4s. war advance;
Girls 16 and under 17—19s. per week, being 15s. wage and 4s. war advance;
Girls 15 and under 16—16s. per week, being 12s. wage and 4s. war advance.
Girls under 15—11s. per week, being 7s. wage and 4s. war advance.

Women 18 years of age and over coming into the laundry for the first time may be paid 4s. a week less than the above rates for not more than three months. Piece prices are to yield to workers of ordinary ability at least the same amount as the minimum time rate of 24s. to those over 18, and the other rates set out above to those under 18. A pieceworker is to have in addition to piece work earnings 4s. per week.

The ordinary working week is to be one of 48 hours; time and a quarter to be paid for all overtime, and work after 1 p.m. Saturdays to be paid at the rate of time and a quarter, excepting where by an agreement another day has been substituted instead of Saturday as a half-holiday.

The award operates as from the first pay day in May, 1919.

This award, as has been expected, only applies to London. It has been extended by agreement to the laundry workers at Brighton. The reason why the London laundry workers have held first place is because they are so well organised. It rests merely with the workers themselves in other districts to perfect their organisation and obtain corresponding rises in wages.

* * * *

That Five Shillings.

As a result of correspondence with Messrs. Downton & Co., Poplar, we have now received a letter from them saying that, although they do not now employ women, all those who were affected by the Award of 5s. have been requested to call at the Works when all back pay due under the Award will be given to them.

We now learn that Messrs. Douglas, of Bristol, have also paid up the 5s. advance.

Our members at Messrs. The Motor Car Copper Smithing Company, Fulham, have received a 5s. bonus as from January 1st.

Cable Makers.

The parties were the Cable Manufacturers' Association against the Federation, the Amalgamated Society of India Rubber, Cable and Asbestos Workers, and practically all the General Labour Unions.

The award gives 5s. increase to women and 2s. 6d. increase to girls, provided that the total over the rates prescribed in the Order in 1916 does not exceed 20s. in the case of women and 10s. in the case of girls.

Piece workers and premium bonus workers are to receive the increase on the amount earned, calculated on the present basis.

The advances are to date back from April 17th.

* * * *

A Jewellery Case.

An award has also been given in the case between Messrs. Fred. Lee and Company, the Federation, and the Workers' Union.

Claim was for 5s. a week advance, but the court awarded 3s. 6d. for women and 1s. 9d. for girls.

The award comes into effect on the first full pay day after May 15th.

* * * *

Arbitration Expected.

We may expect that a number of fresh cases with reference to the 5s. increase will be heard very shortly.

The Federation has asked that the 5s. advance should be paid in a large number of additional trades, including nuts and bolts, screws, sheet metal and metal rolling, tube making, metal stamping, small tools, light castings, and, we hope, possibly bedsteads. Application has also been made with regard to firms engaged upon glass.

The old Special Arbitration Tribunal usually proceeded by means of a general advance to all women and girls. The new Tribunal seems more anxious to take trades piecemeal; but we have every confidence that the result to our members will be the same.

It is possible that the arbitrations concerning all the above trades will be taken together at a general hearing. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that all organisers and members should let workers engaged in the trades mentioned above know what is going on, and that the Federation is working for them for an increase in wages.

* * * *

My Lords Command.

We have had rather a lengthy correspondence respecting the payment of the 5s. advance to our members employed at the Naval Base, Invergordon.

The Federation made its first application on behalf of these members to the Naval Base on February 21st. A reply was received from the Captain Superintendent on March 5th, saying "When, and if, the necessary Admiralty authority arrives, steps will be

taken to adjust both the current and back pay." Nothing, however, happened, and on April 7th the Federation again wrote, and in reply the Secretary stated, he "was directed by the Captain Superintendent to state he had nothing to add to his previous letter."

We were, however, not going to be beaten, so we then approached the Admiralty, London, on April 26th, and a week later we had a reply from them, stating that the writer was "commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that instructions were issued on the 12th ultimo to H.M. Dockyards and Admiralty Engineering Establishments to apply the increases embodied in Award 174, of January 25th last, to the women workpeople employed in a civilian capacity in the engineering and boiler shops and foundries in these establishments; the payment to take effect retrospectively in accordance with the terms of the Award." The money will be paid on May 24th.

All our members employed by the Admiralty should note this decision.

* * * *

Five Shillings Again.

A number of cases extending the 5s. increase to other trades have now been heard. The first of these is the case of the Federation against the Ministry of Munitions (Central Stores Branch). The women here are to receive 5s. a week and the girls 2s. 6d. per week advance, provided that the total advances over the rates originally fixed by Statutory Rules and Orders shall not exceed £1 and 10s. a week respectively. Piece workers and premium bonus workers are to receive the 5s. and 2s. 6d. above their weekly earnings, calculated on the present basis.

The advances to be paid on the first full pay day in March.

* * * *

Sugar, Cocoa, and Jam.

The Federation and the Federation of General Workers have concluded a most important agreement. The Interim Industrial Committee of the cocoa, chocolate, and sugar confectionery industry have held several meetings on the question of wages, and an agreement was reached on May 16th, of which we give the main heads.

The working week is to be one of forty-seven hours. Overtime rates for the first two hours, time and a quarter; after two hours, time and a half, Saturday afternoons, time and a half; and double time on Sundays. Workers who have worked twelve months are to receive six days' holiday, with day-rate pay; with a three days' holiday, on the same conditions, for workers who have worked six months. The minimum hourly rate for women is to be 7½d. per hour, with a weekly minimum of 29s. for confectionery and jam workers and 30s. for cocoa and chocolate. Piece rates are to yield at least 25 per cent. over the day rate of 7½d.

The agreement comes into force on June 2nd.

It should be noted that this agreement applies only to employers who are members of the Employers' Association. Trade union action will be necessary in all other cases. Every member, therefore, working in jam or sweets or cocoa who is not getting these rates should let their local Organiser know at once.

Fish-hooks and Needles.

Our members will remember that in the last issue of the "Woman Worker" we reported an award which has been issued by the Court of Arbitration in the case of the Needle and Fishing Tackle makers. A good deal of correspondence has ensued between the employers and the Court as the employers desired to be allowed to pay lower rates for learners.

We now learn from the Court that they have written to the employers to say that the Award does not authorise the payment of the learners at rates less than those specified in the Award, and the Court cannot see their way to amend the Award so as to provide for the payment of lower rates to learners. The rates for learners are as follows:—

Girls, 17 years and under 18 ... 4½d. an hour.

Girls, 16 years and under 17 ... 3½d. an hour.

Girls, 15 years and under 16 ... 3d. an hour.

Girls, under 15 ... 2½d. an hour.

Our members must, therefore, see that the learners receive the rates as fixed by the Award.



What Baby Needs

COW'S Milk is a dangerous substitute for healthy mother's milk and an awkward one. In summer the risk is doubly grave as the milk is likely to contain more germs than usual and to go sour.

If your baby cannot be given nature's food (maternal milk) avoid the dangers that follow the use of cow's milk or starchy prepared foods by adopting the 'Allenburys' simple and certain method of Infant Feeding.

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IRISH NOTES

No Irish Need Apply.

A curious case is reported from the Dublin Labour Exchange. One of our members was offered work in England at 55s. a week. She refused and was told that her unemployment donation would be stopped. She applied to Mrs. Buckley, who advised her to go back at once and accept the job. She did so and was told that she could not have it, as the employer had attached a condition that "No Irish need apply." We have here a case where unemployment donation was refused on account of a non-existent job. If the worker had not been properly advised, her unemployment donation would have been lost to her—as on the face of the case the refusal of so excellent a post would have been inexcusable. We wonder in how many other such cases unemployment donation has been refused. Probably this very offer (bearing in mind the reluctance of girls to leave their homes) has prevented many Irish girls from obtaining their just rights.

Mrs. Buckley writes that the number of cases allowed by the Court of Referees is growing steadily less, and yet nothing has been done to provide either work or training centres for Irish girls. She has approached Mr. Gordon Campbell, Chief of the Irish Ministry of Labour, on the subject and we are hopeful of galvanising the powers that be into action soon. Meanwhile she appeals to the members, especially in the Dublin branch, to hold together.

Good Progress.

Cork is flourishing. No. 1 branch is doing well, while No. 2 bids fair to outgrow all the others. The Douglas woollen workers are to be congratulated on their fine response to the call of Trade Unionism. We hear, too, of successes in the Cork Spinning and Weaving Co.

We have just heard that the energetic and capable Secretary, Miss Elwood, has succeeded in finding a permanent home for our Cork members. This is a great advance.

Miss Flowers has had a very trying time in connection with the dispute of the darners in Galway Woollen Mills. It is a pity the girls did not consult her before taking action; however, the case is now going to arbitration. Apart from this, Galway is doing very well indeed; the branches are small but sturdy. The girls keenly appreciate the efforts of Miss Flowers on their behalf, efforts which so far have been productive of the best results to the workers. We are looking forward to a week-end with our Galway friends at Whitsuntide.

Londonderry holds its own. Waterford or Wexford are silent—but we hope no news is good news.

Labour Day.

Labour Day—Our Day—was a glorious success, and the solidarity of Irish Labour was demonstrated beyond yea or nay. Dublin, Cork, Galway, Wexford, Waterford—all had their Federation representatives. Mrs. Buckley was on the platform in Cork, Miss Flowers in Galway—a platform wide enough for all—irrespective of creed or politics—the platform of the people.



HOME HINTS

Just
Try
Them!



Galantine of Beef.

Ingredients: 1 lb. stewing steak, ½ lb. cooked ham, 1 breakfastcupful bread crumbs, 1 tablespoonful parsley, 1 dessertspoonful mixed herbs, 1 egg, ½ teacupful of gravy or stock. Mince the steak and ham, add the bread crumbs, herbs, and parsley, the egg well beaten, and the stock. Tie in a floured cloth and boil gently 1½ hours. Remove from the cloth and place between two plates with a weight on top. Glaze when cold and garnish with lettuce and tomatoes.

Gooseberry Mould.

Stew 1 lb. of gooseberries to a pulp, with sugar to taste. Dissolve ½ oz. of gelatine in ½ teacupful of hot water. Line a mould with sponge cake or fingers, pour in the gooseberries. Turn out when set, and serve with custard or cream.

Lunch Cake.

Half lb. of self-raising flour, ¼ lb. sugar, ¼ lb. butter, 2 ozs. sweet almonds, ¼ lb. currants, ¼ lb. sultanas, 1 oz. lemon peel, 1 tablespoonful syrup, 1 gill milk or a very little more. Cream the butter and sugar; beat up the egg in the milk, add gradually to the creamed butter. Sift in the flour, beating till quite smooth. Lastly, add the fruit, previously dusted with flour. Pour into a greased tin and bake 1½ hours in a moderate oven.

Yorkshire Parkin.

One lb. medium oatmeal, 4 ozs. butter, ½ teaspoonful ground ginger, 1 tablespoonful brown sugar, 1 teaspoonful baking powder, 1 lb. golden syrup. Mix thoroughly and bake in moderate oven 1 hour. Do not open oven door while the cake is baking.

We have been in communication with Messrs. The Imperial Dining Rooms, Hammersmith, on behalf of one of our members, Miss F. Mills, formerly employed there. She was dismissed without payment for the last week she was employed, and as a result of our application to the firm, the case has now been settled by the payment of £1 9s. 9d., the sum in question.

UNEMPLOYMENT NOTES

Mrs. Godfrey applied for her insurance pay at the Labour Exchange. She was offered work at a jewel-case makers at 4d. an hour, starting at 17s. 4d. per week. She refused this handsome emolument, and her unemployment donation was stopped. Mrs. Bray took the case in hand and defended it in the Court of Referees, who allowed out-of-work pay.

In this case there was only 28 days' delay, as unemployment pay was refused on April 1st and the case was heard on April 28th. Four weeks, however, are enough to place a worker in very serious difficulties.

Five of our members at Hereford were refused unemployment benefit. Mrs. Pownall took up the cases, and in four cases our members received pay. The case which was refused was that of Mrs. Pritchard, our late branch secretary, on account of her husband receiving full rate of pay. This is a common practice of the Committee dealing with the Extension of Donation.

We fail to see on what ground of justice or reason a woman should be refused her rights because her husband is lucky enough to be at work.

At Lightning Speed.

Miss Baldwin writes: "Mrs. Robertson (Redhill) was refused unemployment benefit by the Court of Referees. This happened at 3.30. I arrived at 3.45—got the case reheard—and benefit was allowed." Well done, Miss Baldwin.

Miss Nellie Featherbridge, 16 years old, claimed donation benefit at the Warrington Labour Exchange about last March. She was asked to undertake night work at the British Aluminium Company, Ltd., which was refused, and in consequence out of work donation was suspended. Questions were asked in the House of Commons and the Minister of Labour stated that he was of opinion that the case required further consideration and that he had referred it to the Umpire.

Something Won.

Fourteen girls were suspended from receiving unemployment donation at the Fleetwood Exchange, Manchester, for refusing to take work at the Apex Co., Fleetwood, Manchester, at the rate of 6s. a week (good workers might be able to earn £1 a week), according to the firm's statement. Two of these girls were our members and Mrs. Pearson represented them at the Court of Referees, with the result that their cases were allowed.

The Court also agreed that the 12 other smaller cases should be allowed also. The contention of the firm was that they taught the girls at a loss to themselves. All the girls offered 6s. a week were over 24 years of age.

The firm are engaged in the manufacture of bottles, hat pins, buckles, hair slides, and fancy ornaments (metal stamping).

OUR LEGAL ADVICE BUREAU

A Lucky Girl.

Miss Alice Hoyland, 19 years of age, met with an accident to two of her fingers on the right hand. Was paid compensation during the time total incapacity lasted, but compensation ceased when fingers were healed. The worker then wrote to the Federation saying that she had signed a paper—"but that the gentleman had held his hand over the writing so that I could not see what it was I was signing."

The Bureau wrote to the firm and found that what had been signed was an agreement in full settlement of all claims. The Bureau then wrote to their solicitors, pointing out:

1. That the worker was still permanently incapacitated.
2. That an agreement had been signed in ignorance by a worker under 21.

Proceedings were taken, and the court awarded a payment of 7s. a week.

That there are two morals in this case is obvious. If the worker had not belonged to the Federation she would have had no chance whatever of obtaining compensation. The second moral which all workers should take to heart—never, never, never sign a paper unless you know what is in it; and never sign an agreement in full settlement without asking the Federation's advice.

We have had a letter from the worker as follows:

"I was very pleased to receive your letter as regards my case. I think I did very well. I thank the Union very much and I am glad I joined it when I did. I shall always keep in it. My fingers are very tender yet and I expect will be for a long time.

Sincerely yours,

ALICE HOYLAND."

We think she is a lucky girl and hope she will remember the two morals we have drawn.

A Pensions Increase.

Martham Villas,
Cleveland Street, Stourbridge.
May 8, 1919.

Miss Lawrence,

I am pleased to tell you that my wife has received an amount of 5s. per week pension.

We both feel very much indebted to you and your society for the kindness you have shown in dealing with our case. I doubt very much if we should have got anything at all if it had not been for the effort you have made, as I have been trying to get some recompense for two years, but was always put off with the statement, there was no claim. Both myself and wife send our heartfelt thanks.

Yours truly,

(Signed) T. WHEELER.

[Son, Trooper J. R. Wheeler, 4086, 1st Life Guards, was killed in action on May 3rd, 1917. No pay has been made on ground of the son being an apprentice. After continual correspondence and long delay an award obtained from the Military of Pensions of 5s. weekly from November 6th, 1918, for life.]

THE QUEST OF THE RED FLOWER.

[Our friends are talking over their adventures.]

CHAPTER XXVI.—Concluded.

"I am well," said Tony, herself, with something of her old assurance. "Tell me of Alcala Montalban, Teddy. It is lucky for you that you had no hand in the killing of her brother."

My cousin Edward blushed a little, and cleared his throat.

"As to that—Señorita Montalban is about to marry—when her period of mourning is over—Pablo Olivares. I have been so busy lately that—"

"You had not time to cut out Olivares?" I asked. "Is Pepita getting on all right at Las Rosas?"

"Quite. Juanita is very good to her, and though the child looks sad enough sometimes, I think in time—"

We fell silent for a while. On the other side of the court-yard a woman was at her daily task of grinding corn. The ever monotonous sound came across to us on the still air.

"In time—" said Tony, with a quick little sigh.

"In time," said Juan, "we shall build up an honest Government and a prosperous State. In time we shall educate our people and get to know the world outside our borders. In time, Floriana will take her place as one of the most enlightened, instead of the most backward, countries in this continent."

"Your hopes are high, niño," his mother said.

"Why not? Are not yours, mother?" He kissed her hand gently. "We are all just come out of a big fight, and we have won so far. Why not again? I think we are right to have high hopes. And now that our Tonita is getting well—as she says she is—"

"I am—I am, most truly," said Tony, with conviction, and indeed the light of life was warmer in her eyes. "A week to-day I ride with Dick. You shall see. Is not Estrella waiting for me? Dick brought her into the courtyard the other day. She is beautiful as ever—oh, in a week's time—!"

"In a week's time, a ride perhaps. In a month's time," said I, "we start for England. In two months' time, I shall be showing you the moors up beyond Garth—you've yet to see an English moor, Tony, and the dales under snow."

"By Jove, yes!" Teddy's voice, too, had a homesick tinge. "The moors in autumn aren't half bad. We've something to show you over there. Not the excitements you've shown us, of course. It'll be dullish, perhaps, after revolutions and the rest. But—not a bad old shop, England! I wonder, Tony, what you'll think of the mater, and the girls—Dick's sisters, I mean."

"It is a question rather, what they will think of me," said Tony, lightly, but she had a look of anxiety.

"Think of you! They'll think what we all think," said my cousin Edward, "which is that you're—you're—"

"Incomparable," I laughed. "As incomparable as unmanageable."

My cousin nodded sagely.

"Yes. They'll admit you've brought back something from your travels, dull though you are."

"Dull!" says Doña Antonia, sitting up among her pillows, with a most flattering surprise.

"Dullest dog in the dales—didn't you know it?"

Teddy asked to, solemnly. "Why, he came out here, taking old John Waldegrave's word for it that there was some treasure or mine or something to be got for the asking, and he's never even asked! Come to think of it, what was it old John invited you to look for, Dick? The Red Flower, wasn't it? A romantic old beggar! Well, and we're going back without it."

"Dick isn't. You are," said Dona Antonia, crisply. She was looking at my cousin with disfavour. "Dull! You think, Teddy, because people do not always talk—"

Teddy waved his hands in mock rejoicing. "Who said our young friend was dead! I seem to see lots of the old kick left in her. Well, all I ask is—where is the blessed red flower?"

Doña Antonia dropped back upon her pillows, and surveyed Edward Strange with a calm and quelling directness.

"Señor Val was romantic—yes! I think—I do not ask you to believe it, good Teddy—but I think when he spoke of the Red Flower he meant me. The country people call it Doña Antonia's flower, and sometimes the Flower of Love. And"—for a moment her eyes met mine and the colour rose in her face—"certainly," she said, in another tone. "Certainly—"

"Certainly Dick has found that," said Juan Velasquez.

THE END.

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Important to WOMEN WORKERS

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR INSURANCE CARD

Send it to your Society as soon as it is handed to you by your employer.

If you are not a member of a Society SEND IT TO THE FEDERATION.

Don't take it to the Post Office.—If you want full benefits Join the Federation.

The Federation is the Society for Women Workers.

The Federation is controlled by Women Workers for Women Workers.

It Protects and Represents the Interests of Women Workers.

Strengthen your Branch by joining for State Insurance.

Transfer to your own Society and manage your own business.

Don't Forget—Give your Stamped Card to your Branch Secretary

OR SEND IT TO

MARY R. MACARTHUR, Hon. Gen. Sec.
National Federation of Women Workers,
Dilke House, Malet Street, London, W.C.1.

**A WORD TO DOMESTIC
AND HOTEL WORKERS.**

You have often grumbled about your wages and hours, but grumbling is of no use.

Organised workers do not need to grumble.

They can get their rights through their organisation.

Don't Delay

**Join the Federation of Women
Workers.**