WHAT LABOR UNIONS ARE ACCOMPLISHING FOR WOMEN

Mrs. L. Gee, president of the local Garment Workers, gave an address before the candidates for secretaryship of the Y. W. C. A. training center on Monday evening, Dec. 11. Her subject was "What Labor Unions Are Doing for Women."

The speaker said in part:

There is so much to be said along the line of labor unions that I feel I cannot do the subject justice. I have for a number of years interested myself with the condition of working women, having been a working woman for 16 years and having worked at almost all kinds of honest labor. For years I worked here and there, first as a domestic, nurse, laundry worker and doing common labor in general. At last I commenced working at the garment trade in the making of mechanics' clothing. At first I was loth to join the organization of Garment Workers, as I had never known what a labor union was, and thought, as many of you, that they were no good, composed of fanatics, or, in other words, anarchists.

I joined my organization and got right into the movement and found out in a short time that organized labor's principles were grand and lofty. They stood for bettering the condition of the working class in every way; for the uplifting of humanity; for the abolition of child labor; for creating a bond of brotherhood and sisterhood among all the working people; of banding together to help, not only the organized, but the unorganized, as well, by organizing into different crafts and all coming under the American Federation of Labor till today we stand as one great body of union men and women, fighing for our rights and helping one another.

To organized labor is due the credit of the abolition of child labor, one of the most vital points in this life's history, for the future of our country depends on our children. How could any child who has his or her life sapped out in the factory or mill, deprived of the happy childhood and responsibilities placed on their young shoulders, health broken down, even before they have half reached manhood or womanhood—how, I say, can they be expected to develop into the ideal type of parents or citizens?

That, I claim, is one of the admirable things labor unions are doing for women; they are saving your boy and girl, and my boy and girl. Labor asks for the women a decent, living wage, clean, sanitary conditions and short hours. We must have a decent wage when we are girls, so no finger of scorn can be pointed at us in after years by our children or anyone else, and sayyour life had its dark shadows. If we have a decent, living wage in the days we are employed at some occupation or other, we cannot hold that as an excuse.

Labor unions ask and demand decent living wages for women and girls, and that's why we organize. We do it for our children's sake. We do it for our nation's sake—to make and keep ourselves clean so we need never blush for shame at our past working life.

What are labor unions doing for women? I will say they are fitting us to live and learn, to educate ourselves and help our sisters and brothers. We ask a decent, living wage. We ask sanitary conditions, and we ask shorter hours, that we may take care of our health and keep our strength for the time when we can give our place to some other in the working world and take up the duties that God meant us to perform. Now, I ask you, if we are asking anything that is not in reason.

In our own organization, the Garment Workers, I will say, for the average worker, our wages is a decent wage. Our average is $2 per day, and we enjoy the eight hours through our organization, and many of our girls are taking up some kind of study, and manyof them have bought property and own their own homes. And never yet, since we have had an organization, have we failed to respond to an appeal for help, let it come from whom it may, not only from our own people, but from any source. We are very much interested in the Florence Crittenden Refuge Home on East Twenty-eighth street, and have helped some along that line.

The labor union makes us broad-minded; it makes us unselfish and thoughtful of our fellow-man, and makes us desire to help each other as an organization. We gain the confidence of all our fellow-workmen. It gives us prestige as business women. Just the same as a labor union it would answer the purpose of the Bar Association that the attorneys have. That is a labor union, just the same. The Y. W. C. A. is a labor union, for are you not organized? and have you not rules and regulations to run your institution?

We ask for the right to live an honest life and time to live it in. We ask that God in His infinite mercy to help us to get that. We ask every man, woman and child to come and join with us for the uplifting of humanity and for the protection of our little children, and the proper way to train them to make them fit to go out into the world and make men and women of themselves of respectability and nobility of purpose. And without we have a decent wage and a decent hour to do that labor in, we cannot fit ourselves for the duties that God has given us to perform here on this earth.

And the only way to get those conditions is to organize ourselves into a union and mak ourselves strong so that we can fight our battles out—the battle for the right to live an honest life. There is no more peaceful person in the world than the working man or woman.

I would, if I could have the power, to call out the great masses, organize, organiz ; live up to your own organization; be tr o its teachings, the rules and regulations, and there would be no danger of harming any one or anything.

TRADE MURDERERS FOR OFFICE.

Says the Central Point Herald:

"Under our present system of economics it seems to be the business of capital to oppress labor and the business of labor to resent oppression. Capital generally has the best of the controversy, because capital controls the money, the police power, and to a great degree, the courts. If labor controlled these things, under present conditions, labor would be the oppressor, for we are all human.

"It is openly charged in Los Angeles that the McNamara confession with its resultant compromise sentence was arranged and brought about by big business interests for the moral effect on the election; that had the election been 'safe' they might have gone to trial and the gallows. If this be true, it is but another instance of the venality of the courts and lawyers and public officials in thus trading the life of a self-confessed murderer for the spoils of office."

Taft's experts have discovered that it would never do to base railroad rates on physical valuations. All the traffic will bear, all the skinning the producers will stand for, all the blood the railway gamblers can squeeze out of the people, so his experts point out in well-turned sentences, is the correct rule regarding railroad regulation. There is nothing like expert testimony. It is always for the side with the most plunder to divide.

The tariff experts on wool are about ready to report that the people should continue to wear shoddy and gauze clothing as the wool combine needs the money. That is the substance of the tariff experts' report on everything, only it is wrapped up in camgaign dinners and vast aggregations of words.

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BARTENDERS, NO. 142.—Alternate Sundays, 2 P. M., Labor Union Hall. Chas. Martin, secretary, 549 Bond street.
CARPENTERS, NO. 917.—Saturdays, 8 P. M., Labor Union Hall. Mr. Shephard, president; William Bell, secretary, 475 Fifteenth street.
BARBERS, NO. 167.—Last Monday, 8 P. M., Union Labor Hall. Geo. Langford, president; Jas. Lindley, 65 Commercial street.
ELECTRICAL WORKERS' UNION.—First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 P. M. N. Brunold, president; George W. Walters, financial secretary, 215 Thirteenth street, Astoria.
FISHERMEN'S UNION.—Meets at Fishermen's Hall, first Saturday, 7:30 P. M. H. M. Lorntsen, Fishermen's Hall.
LONGSHOREMEN'S UNION.—Second and fourth Wednesdays, 8 P. M., Longshoremen's Hall, 571 Bond street. Chas. Johnson, president; C. H. Thompson, secretary and business agent, 577 Bond street.
MACHINISTS, NO. 26.—First and third Thursdays, 8 P. M., Marine Engineers' Hall, 577 Bond street. H. Nyman, president; A. W. Bryant, secretary, Box 750.
PAINTERS' UNION—Second and fourth Thursdays, 8 P. M., Longshoremen's Hall. C. A. Lawton, president, care Astor House; Arthur Bostrom, 259 Alameda avenue, recording secretary.
TEAM DRIVERS NO. 182.—First and third Tuesdays, 8 P. M., Union Labor Hall. Chris Christensen, president; Len Lowrey, secretary, 274 Bond street.

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BARBERS' LOCAL—Meets in shops, first and third Thursday. W. E. Johnson, Secretary.
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CARPENTERS, NO. 1540—Odd Fellows Hall, Wednesdays. E. E. Walters, Secretary.
CIGARMAKERS, NO. 425.—First Friday, 8 P. M., Labor Union Hall. C. W. DeYoung, president; Joe Moore, secretary, 474 Commercial street.
COOKS, WAITERS AND WAITRESSES, NO. 548—Smith's Hall, Thursdays. Secretary, Box 512.
ELECTRICAL WORKERS—Meet in Smith's Hall.
LATHERS, NO. 342—Second and fourth Tuesday, Smith's Hall. H. R. Straight, Secretary, 108 Genesee.
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PLUMBERS, NO. 362—Smith's Hall, Friday. F. W. Cotterill, Secretary, Box 124.
POSTOFFICE CLERKS, NO. 62—Jno. F. Murphy, Secretary. In session all the time.
PLUMBERS, NO. 362—Smith's Hall, Friday. J. Wilson, Secretary.
TEAMSTERS, NO. 178—Chas. Helm, Secretary. Tuesdays, Smith's Hall. Box 88.
TYPOGRAPHICAL, No. 559—First Tuesday, 5 P. M., Smith's Hall. A. F. Stennett, Secretary. Box 61.
SHEET METAL WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 383.—First and third Tuesday, Diamond House. Carl Armpriest, Sec'y.
OPERATIVE PLASTERERS, LOCAL NO. 134.—First and third Tuesdays' Smith's Hall. Chester Brown, Sec'y. Box 411.
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CARPENTERS, NO. 415.—Friday evening, Labor Hall, 328 N. Jackson. C. L. Sun, secretary.
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