I

Chicago, 12,000 pupils are showing

THE thirty-hour week bill passed by

fish, fruits and vegetables of a perishable

ized. So it stands to re­son that legis­

should be no reduction in the budget

and the other is legislation . Women in

ers. They went on strike to protest un­

nature. The Secretary of Labor is given

an amendment to exempt canneries and

a day, and have been worked seven days a week

been revealed. Negroes on levee work in both private and Government camps

have been worked seven days a week for

as much as twelve hours and in

young people in jobs she said:

This is for the Police Depart­

TALKED to Pauline Newman of the International Ladies' Garment Workers today. She said, "There's only

two ways of bettering the condition

of women in labor. One is organization

and the other is legislation. Women in

industry are only ten per cent organ­

ized. So it stands to reason that legis­

ation which promotes sanitary

(Continued on page 5, column 1)

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

(Continued on page 2, column 3)

In regard to the work of placing

young people in jobs she said:

"The trouble is the educational sys­

om on the one hand and both the

employers and the unions on the other.

It is only in the last few years that

there have been vocational counselors

going around to the schools advising

young people about trades, telling them

where to go. And a boy who wants to

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Attention Police!

This is for the Police Depart­

ent of New York City.

T

This first issue of THE CATHOLIC

Worker is dedicated to the police

of New York City, who we expect to

be out in great numbers on May Day

and whose attention we wish to call

to the two encyclicals, The Reconstruc­

tion of the Social Order, by Pope Leo

XIII, and Forty Years After, by Pope

Pius XI.

If the police don't want to buy this

paper we will give it to them. As so

many of them are good Catholics,

prominent and resplendent in Holy

Name Processions and at Communion

breakfasts, we feel sure that they will

give this issue, which is dedicated to

them, their sympathetic and intelligent

attention.

(Continued on page 5, column 1)

2

NEV YORK CITY

Price 1 Penny

Easy Essays

By FER

N

JAN JACQUES Rousseau

ays:

"Man is naturally good, but in­

stitutions make him bad, so let us

overthrow institutions."

I say man is naturally bad, but

stitutions, not institutions, make

him worse.

"An institution," says Emerson,

"is the extension of the soul of

man."

When institutions are no longer

the extension of the soul of the

founder they have become corpora­

tions.

stitutions are founded to foster

the welfare of the masses.

Corporations are organized to

promote the wealth of the classes.

So the question is not to organize

bigger corporations, but to found

better institutions.

ETHICS AND ECONOMICS

incoln Steffins says:

"The social problem is not a political problem; it is an economic problem."

ropotkin says:

"The economic problem is not an economic problem; it is an ethical problem."

Thorstein Veblen says:

"There are no ethics in modern society."

R. H. Tawney says:

"There were high ethics in so­

cety when the Canon Law was the law of the land."

The high ethics of the Canon

Law are embodied in the ency­
cicals of Pius XI and Leo XIII

on the social problem.

To apply the ethics of the en­
cycilals to the problems of today,

such is the purpose of Catholic Ac­

tion.

BLOWING THE DYNAMITE

W

writing about the Catholic

Church, a radical writer says:

"Rome will have to do more than

to play a waiting game; she will

(Continued on page 8, column 3)
Negro Labor (Continued from page 1, column 2)

robbed by charges for ice water, cook's charges, forced purchases at company stores where the prices are twice those in the regular stores. The result is that they work and receive little or nothing extra back, no credit.

Men have been beaten and kicked by brutal foremen. “Slavery in its most trying days was mild compared with the reign of terror inflicted upon these simple river folks,” according to the American Federation of Labor report published in the American Federationist, March, 1931.

Here are some quotations from the report of the N. A. A. C. P.

ONE INVESTIGATION SUPPRESSED

“It was not discovered until (our) inquiry was well under way that a previous investigation had been made, in December, 1931, by Mr. Holt Ross and Mr. Thomas Carroll, representatives of the American Federation of Labor. Their undertaking appears to have been unofficial. Articles by Mr. Holt Ross appeared in the Federationist in New Orleans, but these have been so thoroughly suppressed that the investigator was unable to find one. The editor produced the files but all the number of the paper they had disappeared. Mr. Ross was removed from his position as organizer for the A. F. of L. immediately after the investigation, which is generally believed to have been due to the disapproval of President Green. Many of the A. F. of L. officials refused to discuss the river camp situations. . . .

“Two young negroes, recent college graduates went to the levee camp dressed as workingmen, and made inquiries about the work. Two white men, interested in labor, also visited the same camp. The following description is based on their reports and the observation of the investigator.

WORK IN 120° TEMPERATURE

“The levee at this point extends for several miles through swamp land. The mosquitoes and a special kind of fly bred in the swamp rise in thick swarms as soon as the sun gets low, so that work in the morning and evening is impossible. In the middle of the day the temperature is 120 degrees on the levee and there is no shade. Sleeping quarters consists of tents, housing six to eight men. There is no floor and they sleep on the ground but it is comparatively clean. For mattresses there are piles of moss from the live oaks or in some cases, rags. The place is indescribably filthy and airless. . . .

“Our contractor expressed the attitude of all they said that he did not expect to pay his labor anything above their maintenance. . . .

“The distress in this district is so acute that the negroes are waiting for jobs, willing to endure anything for the sake of food and shelter.”

DISREGARDED BY WAR DEPARTMENT

As to what has been done about these reports, Mr. Wilkins said, “Conditions have been exposed and formal protest was made last year by Mr. Holt Ross to the War Department which has charge of the work. An investigation was requested and a betterment of conditions. We found the War Department inclined to disregard the whole thing, so we kept right on with our agitation. Mr. Hoover took cognizance of the conditions and appointed a commission consisting of three negroes and one white person. Two of them were Republican office holders and two were conservatives not likely to get at the bottom of anything. This was just before election.

“But immediately after election it was found that there were no funds available.

$1,000 FOR INVESTIGATION

“Then Senator Wagner introduced a resolution for an investigation and it was favorably reported and passed on February 22. But investigation is crippled in that only $1,000 was authorized for the investigation. The latest commission appointed consists of Senator Wagner, Senator Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota and Senator Hubert D. Stephens of Mississippi.

“We want to bring to light these conditions along the Mississippi.

“The attitude of the War Department is that what always has been must go on.

“There is no emergency about this work. There is no need to rush these men fourteen and sixteen hours a day. With all this talk of unemployment and the thirty-hour week as a solution, they disregard the fact that the Government itself is responsible for working men atrocious hours at little or no pay, under unpractical conditions.”

Child Labor (Continued from page 1, column 3)

in getting his training in the first place. And then neither the schools nor the employers tell him anything about the trade unions. They keep nothing about unionism themselves, so naturally they can't teach the young boy or girl about to enter a trade or train himself for a trade.

UNION MEMBERSHIP DIFFICULT

“A boy will graduate from a trade school and find that he has to have a pull or pay some large sum to get into a union. For instance, motion picture operators have to pay $1,500 for a union card. Neither the teachers nor the others tell him anything about unions themselves.

“Right now we have calls for young women to operate power machines. They need only about a week's training and the employer will not take them without union. The wage he offers now is twelve a week. And, of course, the unions fight these wages. The schools have only a limited number of machines to train the girls with and up to a short time ago they were letting them stand idle and making no provision for a teacher to train the pupils.

“We have to work not only with the young people seeking employment, but with the schools, the employers and the unions.

DEMAND FOR HOUSEHOLD HELP

“The biggest demand for girls at the present time is for household work. During the two months of this year we had 1,141 calls and could only fill 407 of them. Girls would rather starve than take the jobs, and you can't blame them much when you consider that it is an absolutely unorganized field of work. There is no limit as to hours, no consideration shown the girls as to working conditions, and the pay is abominable. On the other hand the girls are totally without training and when the colored clothes are dirty in with, the white clothes and the man of the house’s socks are boiled and shrunk to one-half their size then the women kick.

“In the first place the girls need training. The main emphasis in domestic science taught in the schools is on the cooking. But most of the time that is the least they don’t want girls who know how to make fancy salads. They would just as leave do most of the cooking or part of the cooking themselves.

“They want girls trained in household work, laundry, taking care of children, etc. And they don’t get trained girls. And they are untrained themselves, so they can’t train the girls they get.

CONDITIONS BAD—WAGES WORSE

“On the other hand women are trying to take advantage of the depression to get some cheap help. They call in to this office and want a girl to come and live in and work for them for two dollars a week. And then the girl comes back and complains that she is expected not only to work for the one woman, but to make the rounds of all the relatives and do the heavy housework for several members of the family. For sleeping quarters the girl is put in the foyer, in the dining room or living room, where she cannot go to bed until the other members of the house have turned in.

“There was one case where we questioned the woman wanting help, about the sleeping quarters to be provided, and she said that the girl could sleep down in the basement next to the oil burner. Nice and warm and cozy. One woman even said that she could put boards over the bathtub and the girl could sleep there.

Communists, Despite Noise, Are Not Only Defenders of Scottsboro Case

Nowadays the streets of New York are lively with the shouted slogans of Communist Negroes who are parading, holding meetings of protest against the decision in the Scottsboro case in which one of the nine Negro boys who have been in jail for the last two years was condemned to death once more after the decision of the first trial was reversed by the United States Supreme Court.

Communists have a flair for getting hold of an outstanding case of injustice and making of it a cause celebre and a means of publicizing their propaganda and making converts.

By the time they get through with a case they have convinced everyone that they are the only ones who are doing anything and in this way they gain much approbation from the liberal press, and in some cases from even so conservative a sheet as the New York Times.

An example of this kind is the story in the April 16 number of the New York Times where there was a long feature story of three columns in the Sunday paper on the Scottsboro case, in which no mention was made of the efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in behalf of the Negro boys.

THE CASE IN BRIEF

In brief the story of the Scottsboro case is this. Two years ago a group of negro boys were stormed on their way on a freight train running between Tennessee and Alabama. On the same train were two white girls, Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, who, as one of the girls later testified, had been spending the night with two boys friends at a hobo camp. There were seven white boys also on the train. The Negroes and whites became involved in a fight and the whites were forced off the train.

(Continued on page 6, column 1)

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(Continued on page 6, column 1)
**THE CATHOLIC WORKER**

**Is the Problem Black or White?**

The problem is not what to do with the black man. It is what to do with the white man,” is the way Rev. John T. Gillard, S.S.J., puts it in an article originally published in the *Commonsoral* and since reprinted in pamphlet form, and entitled: *The Negro Challenges Catholicism.*

“Probably the reason why he is so disappointed in us Catholics is that he recognizes the Catholic Church as the greatest moral force in the world and the only moral force which gives promise of ability to solve his problems. He finds the Church pregnant with promise, but Catholicks still-born with prejudice. The reason is not so much because we are Catholicks as because we are Americans. As Catholicks are taught to think Catholic; as Americans we act provincial. This is the only explanation for the vast difference between our preaching and our practicing.”

Father Gillard of the Paulists in a radio address some time ago, an address which was cut off throughout the South because of the objection to his subject, said:

**IS DENIED VOTE**

“Yet in certain parts of our country disabilities heaped upon the Negro because he is a Negro.

“In many localities he is denied the vote even though that denial involves fraud or force upon the part of the white man.

“In some sections he receives lower wages than the white man for the same work.

“In other sections he is charged higher rent than the white man for the same housing.

“His natural ambition to rise to something better than menial occupation and to fit himself for it is frustrated by local, by custom or even by physical violence; he is refused admission to certain trade unions; in many states he is denied membership in white churches; he dare not attempt to take communion with the whites; likewise except in the North, he cannot attend schools, public or private, with the whites, and the public schools into which he is segregated are inferior in architecture, in location and in scholastic standing to the others, although the black man pays his school tax like any other man.

“He is kept out of select hotels, restaurants and places of public entertainment, not only in the South, but in the North. Where the Jim Crow law segregated are inferior in the law courts for blacks and for whites. In a thou-

sand cities and towns and villages, he is segregated with his fellows away from white neighborhoods as strictly as if he were a leper.

“If he ventures to buy or rent a house in a ‘white’ district, his home may be bombed (one wealthy Negro’s home was bombed in Chicago seven times) and he will be granted no local redress.

“He is subject to mob violence, denied trial by jury and if suspected of certain crimes, he is lynched. His women folk suffer molestation, but, if in a fit of mania, he retaliates, he is shot down or perhaps burned alive. And of course, he is prohibited in certain states under terrible penalties from inter-marriage with whites.

“In the United States,” Father Gillard points out, in his writings, “the Catholic Church was never in a position to exert much influence upon the question of slavery at the time when that question was a vital one. Beaten down by persecution from without and torn by schism within, the wonder is that she survived those times at all.”

**BRAZIL’S SLAVE PROBLEM**

In Brazil, however, where there was also a slave problem, the influence of the Catholic Church abolished slavery without bloodshed. President Rosevelt when he traveled through Brazil wrote:

“If I were asked to name the one point in which there is a complete difference between the Brazilians and ourselves, I should say that it was in the attitude toward the black man. . . . The ideals of the United States and Brazil as regards the treatment of the Negroes are wholly different. . . . ” And he quotes with approval, “We treat the Negro with entire respect, and he responds to the treatment. If a Negro shows capacity and integrity, he receives the same reward that a white man would receive. He has therefore every incentive to rise.”

**Notice**

Any subject interesting to you should interest others. We shall give due consideration to all communications. Address 54 Scarborough Avenue, Roseland, Staten Island, New York City.

“Arbitrary dismissal, which takes into consideration merely the convenience or advantage of the employer of the consideration for the well being of the worker, is a real injustice.” —Father Cuthbert, O.S.F.C.

“The regulations legally enacted for corporations, with their divided responsibility and limited liability, have given occasion to abominable abuses. . . . The worst injustices and frauds take place beneath the common name of a corporate firm.” —Pius XI.

**Drab Futility in Workers’ Letters**

Letters received by the Bureau of Women in Industry, State Department of Labor:

‘Dear ——. I am working in —— at ——. We have to be in at 7 A.M., work to 12, then 1 to 5 o’clock. The rates are very low. We have to do 24 seams at 8 cents a dozen, and change our cotton about six times for different colors. You have to walk up and down the place about 25 to 30 times a day to get work. They refuse to tell you the piece rates. When you receive your pay you may be as little as 75 cents for five days and a half. Some receive $1.75 and some $1.95 for their week’s work. . . . I hope you will be able to help the poor working girls of this place.”

February, 1933.

“Dear ——. I have been wishing to know of someone to whom I could tell of the terrible working conditions. Last week I worked at lampshades a few hours at the —— Co., at ———, New York. I put on applique on the shades. That is a narrow strip of trimming, a very particular work. For two strips, about one yard long each, they paid three-fourths of a cent. And for binding the shade top and bottom, one and three-fourths cents. It takes about ten minutes to bind a shade.

“They are so busy that they work young girls overtime till 8 or 9 P.M. Of course, the boss pays nothing for the work, so he sells for very little. Consequently he takes away the customers of other manufacturers who pay more. I applied to other shade manufacturers yesterday, but no one was busy. I do perfect work and have speed, for I used to earn $35 a week. One man I worked for first gave me a decent wage a couple of years ago because he wanted to learn from me, so he went with me to the stores to buy materials and had me teach the girls, but after he got all he wanted he closed me out. I am also an expert jewelry boxer, but the last 3 years I hardly work. If I do get a job it pays piece work, almost as little as the above place. A few months ago I worked for —— at ——, and I worked the people Saturday afternoon till 5 or 6 o’clock without pay, but he is not having any work now. I am not working and have no money for my rent. I’d be willing to work for $8 a week, but piece work pays not even that.

“I know you will try all you can for the unemployed. Thanking you, I am respectfully yours.”

(Signed.)

March 10, 1933.

“Dear ——. I am a young girl 22 years of age, born in this country. I have two sisters, mother and father to support, my occupation is an operator on dresses. For this work I paid fifteen cents a dress. For this price I work two and three days weekly which amounts to a small sum of ten and fifteen dollars a week, that is when I work a full week and which has been going on for the past two years. Due to this we have run up a large debt. How can we pull through with a rent of forty-five dollars monthly, with employers lowering our wages and landlords raising our rents. With me, the sole support of my family, I am writing to you to see that us garment workers are paid a fair price, so as one can make a living wage. My family has never asked for charity, we do not intend to. All I ask is to see that employers pay us operators a fair price.” —A Citizen.

March 23, 1933.

“Dear ——. I have been going to write you for some time while they are looking after the mills and industries. I wish you would look into the Co. They get an order they call you up. Maybe you would have good work a week or two and then they lay you off for weeks and sometimes months. Sometimes they call you in only to make a few cents. When you work full time you have to work on the jump to make four or five dollars a week. There is times I would be called it, I could not make carfare for just a few hours. I have worked when I or the other girls made a dollar or so a week, ashamed to hand in my time. Now they got the efficient men in and standing back of you telling you to speed up and step on the gas with a watch in their hand to see how long it takes you to do a piece and you have got to keep it up or be docked in your pay. They have just killed it for the poor working girl.

“For God sake, please look into this, as the poor girls are used just like slaves. Only the married women can work here. Us girls can’t make our board. How I would like to sign my name, but if I did I would never get a place to work in a mill and that is all I can do.” —One Discorded Working Girl.

March 10, 1933.

“Dear ——. I have been reading an article about the needle worker condition in N.Y., in regard to profiteering. I am now writing to you to see if you would do anything about what I consider the same conditions in the shop where I work, which is the Co. He is getting the same price for his products that he was four years ago. But during this
This first number of THE CATHOLIC WORKER was planned, written and edited at present a monthly, published and started.

For those who are sitting on park benches in the warm spring sunlight.

For those who are huddling in shelters trying to escape the rain.

For those who are walking the streets in the all but futile search for work.

For those who think that there is no hope for the future, no recognition of their plight,—this little paper is addressed.

It is printed to call their attention to the fact that the Catholic Church has a social program—to let them know that there are men of God who are working not only for their spiritual, but for their material welfare.

FILLING A NEED

IT'S time there was a Catholic paper printed for the unemployed. The fundamental aim of most radical sheets is the conversion of its readers to Radicalism and Atheism.

Is it not possible to be radical and not atheist?

Is it not possible to protest, to expose, to complain, to point out abuses and demand reforms without desiring the overthrow of religion?

In an attempt to popularize and make known the encyclical of the Popes in regard to social justice and the program put forth by the Church for the "reconstruction of the social order," this news sheet, THE CATHOLIC WORKER, is started.

It is not as yet known whether it will be a monthly, a fortnightly or a weekly. It all depends on the funds collected for the printing and distribution. Those who can subscribe, and those who can donate, are asked to do so.

THE aims of the Unemployed Councils, the organizers tell them, is to promote unemployment insurance,—home relief, compensation for the workers,—in other words, social justice.

If an organizer hears of a case where the family is having trouble in getting attention from the Home Relief Bureau, a delegation from the Council goes with the mother or father to the Home Relief Bureau and demands attention, and usually gets it. They get what they are after because they are zealous, efficient, and unafraid to start a scene, a scandal, to face the clubs of police or the judge in the police court.

Indeed, they welcome disturbances and the more of their members are arrested or clubbed, the greater the organization of the Unemployed Councils grow.

For those who are huddling in shelters and wandering through corn fields and pickings the ears from the stalks for work.

For those who are sitting on subway platforms, on the "L," the ferry. There is no editorial office, no overhead in the way of telephone or electricity; no salaries paid.

The money for the printing of the first issue was raised by begging small contributions from friends. A colored priest in Newark sent us ten dollars and the prayers of his congregation. A colored sister in New Jersey, garbed also in holy poverty, sent us a dollar. Another kindly and generous friend sent twenty-five.

The rest of it the editors squeezed out of their own earnings, and with the assistance of that they were using money necessary to pay milk bills, gas bills, electric light bills.

By accepting delay the utilities did not know that they were furthering the cause of social justice. They were, for the time being, unwitting cooperators.

We are asking our friends and sympathizers to help out towards the next issue by sending contributions to THE CATHOLIC WORKER, which will be edited this month at 54 Scarborough Avenue, Roseland, Staten Island.

Next month someone may donate us an office. Who knows?

It is cheering to remember that Jesus Christ wandered this earth with no place to lay His Head. The foxes have holes and the birds of the air their nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His Head. And when we consider our fly-by-night existence, our uncertainty, we remember (with pride at sharing the honor), that the disciples supped by the seashore and wandered through corn fields picking the ears from the stalks with which to make their frugal meals.

A VOTE OF THANKS

T is the policy of the Unemployed Councils which is recruiting members through its block committees by canvassing and by circular appeals, to keep religion out of their discussions.

The Unemployed Councils are afraid of the Communist Party, and the Communist Party Headquarters are in Moscow, and the Moscow official religion is Atheism. But organizers are advised by the writings of Lenin to avoid the issue of religion, and not to antagonize workers who have religious affiliations.

Through this avoidance of fundamentals, the Unemployed Councils have been able to recruit a large number of Italians who are unemployed.

The Catholic Worker
and especially lower Broadway, have taken on the aspect of the old-fashioned diggings.

The state legislature has passed a minimum wage law for women, but not unemployment insurance, only an unemployment reserve fund.

THE MOST BRUTAL TRADE

In the garment trade, the most "brutal" of all the trades in which women are employed, as one worker put it, Klein-on-the-Square, the famous Fourteenth Street Clothiers, is called the "unfair treatment" because some of the big department stores, one young fashion editor was heard saying. "There they take a model and have it copied and they give the job to the cheapest source in other states, such open for dorying concerns and buys them out.

He's no worse, perhaps not so bad as some of the big department stores, " And what about the wages paid by the big stores? In Stern's girls get ten dollars a week and they have to drey decently, buy shoes, stockings, presentables, lunches and expenses out of that. What have they left for board and room?"

There was rumors, however, that this was not a bad outfit. "Not a bad outfit"

THE CATHOLIC WORKER Page 5

THE Listener

Continued from page 1, column 1)

working conditions and better hours. Minimum wage legislation was never passed in this state up to this time. Its only opponent was the National Woman's Party. And what do they know about it? Do they know anything about hours of work or wages? They don't know anything about meeting how we struck once to get an extra penny for twenty dozen sleeves. They say the hours and the wages are worse than ever. If new machinery or methods of higher scientific value are introduced into a manufacture... In such cases, the result that the employer is under an obligation to do what he can to secure new employment to the honest worker; he cannot, without a violation of justice, dismiss the workers, and he ought to be protected, just because in the worker he is dealing with a human life and not with a mere tool."

THE CATHOLIC WORKER

Page 5

THE CATHOLIC WORKER...
From the convictions. At that time he guilty and that he had not defended the defense and the two attorneys of that he had urged the boys to plead them adequately. 

announced him as a Ku Kluxer, charging Scottsboro, except to send a telegram during the first trial of originally in the field helping the accused boys. 

Defense (Communist) agents sought to criminal lawyer of New York, who is in money. Perhaps he is trying to achieve no sense a radical, volunteered his service on southern juries, and on accords of this fact the case again will go to the Supreme Court. 

Scottsboro Case (Continued from page 2, column 3) 

The white hoboes flashed word of the flight to the next station and a posse was at the next stop to halt the train and take off the Negro boys. According to the latest trial, the two girls were afraid they and their boy friends would get into trouble for traveling between states together. The girls tried to escape from the posse but they were captured and held as material witnesses. They charged then that they had been attacked by the colored boys and immediately a trial was rushed through with and the boys were condemned to death. 

It is obvious from the testimony at the last trial which was held at Decatur, Alabama, that the charge of the girls was due to fright on their part and a desire to save their own skins. One girl, however, stuck to her testimony throughout the trial, and it was due to her testimony that the same verdict was given. 

What the Communists with their clever lawyer, Bayard worked on the conviction for the Negroes. It is systematically excluded from service on southern juries, and on account of this fact the case again will go to the Supreme Court. 

S. S. Liebowitz's Part 

S. Liebowitz, an outstanding criminal lawyer of New York, who is in no sense a radical, volunteered his services to the International Labor Defense, the Communist organization, and refused to accept any pay or expense money. Perhaps he is trying to achieve something more practical, though it doesn't make so good a slogan, to dine by kerosene lamp. You can buy a lamp in any little hardware store, and it is cheap. 

If you dine by candlelight (or by kerosene) one night a week and if a few million follow your example, the Electric Light Company suffers severely. Of course, it is a shame to inflict suffering, but then, the poor consumer does a lot of suffering too when it comes to paying the bills. 

It is rightly contended that certain forms of property must be reserved to the State, since they carry with them an opportunity of domination too great to be left to private individuals with no outlet to the community at large. Just demands and desires of this kind contain nothing opposed to Christianity, and are in no way peculiar to Socialism. Those, therefore, who look for nothing else, have no reason for becoming Socialists. 

Figures printed by Economic Justice, a weekly bulletin issued by the National Religion and Labor Foundation, show that the Brooklyn Edison Company suffered severely. 

"Brooklyn Edison has become the testing ground of utility labor throughout the country," the Brotherhood of Edison Employees in expressing the demand for protection of stockholders while thousands of his fellow-workers lost their jobs and suffered wage cuts, the Company paid out $19,000,000 dividends to its stockholders. These workers know that the company had $50,000,000 in reserve and surplus for the protection of stockholders while thousands of his fellow-workers lost their jobs and suffered wage cuts, the Company paid out $19,000,000 dividends to its stockholders. The company is hammering out practical methods of overcoming the fear of utility employees who have been cowed for years by threats and suppression. Consumers have been eager to join forces with utility employees in expressing the demand for lower electric rates."

COURAGEOUS! 

Just a word of praise for Mayor O'Brien. He had the gumption a few weeks ago to get up at a Brooklyn meeting called to protest the unjust decision in the Scottsboro case, and he sat on the platform with radical leaders. 

He said how and said it was for a judge to see a jury bring in an unjust verdict. He took away from the Left that to help things is to change the hearts of the men in the jury box. 

Mr. S. S. Liebowitz, who offered his services to the defense, with his cutting characterization of the Southern jury as a bunch of pop-eyed, slit-mouthed, tobacco-chewing morons did nothing to change the hearts of the men he was addressing. Regardless of the fact that there were eight boys still untried, who had not been found guilty and that he had defended them adequately. They sought to him away from those who had waged kind of the trial, 

The Association's Secretary, Mr. White, went to Chattanooga and Alabama in April to prepare for appeal from the conviction for the Negro boys. At that time he retained the leading criminal lawyer of Alabama, Roodrick Boddow, to head the defense and the two attorneys of record in the original trials. 

"The International Labor Defense meanwhile had endeavored to procure authorization from the boys and their legal guardians to have its attorneys defend them in court, though the boys on April 23, in the Birmingham jail, signed a statement saying: "We have not signed any papers or wills in any other way, we authorized any attorney or person to act for us. Men claiming to be attorneys or interested in us have been to see us at the jail, but we had not seen them. Our Attorney, Talutt presented a paper to us for a sign, but we refused, and he said he would sign for us. We did not touch the pen or tell him to sign our names. ..." 

"None of us want to appear or anything to do with the International Labor Defense or its representatives, and we have not. We did not send for the I. D. organization's attorney or others who may be connected with it. They came to see us and we told them to see Mr. Roddy. We do not authorize or employ them or have anything to do with them." 

But the I. L. D. kept at the case, trying to buy the boys from the National Association which they denounced as a conservative organization. They went to the parents of the accused boys and urged them to go to Russia and all through Europe on platforms and tell of the conditions of Negroes in this country and the discriminations practiced against them. 

According to the Russian's own definition of bribery as brought out in the trial of the British engineers during the last month, it is very plain that the I. L. D. case is a case of buying the National Association by bribery. 

The National Association raised and spent over $7,000 in defense of the Negro boys. It hired Arthur Nairth, Hayes and Clarence Darrow to defend them. The two attorneys only with drew from the case after they refused to withdraw from the National Association and go over to the I. L. D. 

However, the basis of the defense had already been laid by the National Association. A bill of exceptions, 790 pages in length, including the entire transcript of the record of the first trial and all data on the case was submitted to the Supreme Court and in that way the basis of the appeal argument before the Supreme Court. 

Meanwhile the Communist press in its furor against the injustice done to the nine Scottsboro boys, is forgetting the rank injustice of the United States Government in regard to the 5,000 or more Negroes who are doing flood relief work along the Mississippi. But we should not call their attention to it. If any of these Negro workers, then "respectable people" will turn away from the situation altogether and say, "Oh, if the Communists say it's so, it can't be true!" Or, "No use doing anything to do with the case of the Negro exploitation. The Communists have taken it up and we don't want to be associated with them."
Moving day in a poor family. Mrs. Farragut with little money, no furniture and two kids.

Jenny Farragut's husband had lost his work in Cleveland and had come to New York to see if he could find anything. While they lived with her sister, then when he found work in a garage they found a comfortable little apartment, four rooms, bath, steam heat and hot water, for thirty-two a month. It was big enough for them and the two kids, but the problem that was worrying was furniture. They had sold what they had—and it would have cost too much to move it such a distance—and had spent ten money on small things. Jenny was a neat-keeping woman who did not worry. "We can just buy some mattresses and sleep on the floor if necessary," she said. "I got the bedding, thank God."

When her sister's janitor, who was a sociable little man, found out they were having he wanted to know where their furniture was.

"There is no furniture," Jenny told him coldly.

He was agast.

"I'm just going to collect some here and there," she reassured him. "A friend of mine has an extra bed and an ironing board. My sister has an extra chair or two. Bit by bit I'll have enough."

You just wait," he beamed. "I'll see what I have down stairs in the basement. The tenants are always leaving stuff and I save it. I sold a bed for one of them two weeks ago for seventy-five cents, and I bought an ironing board for fifteen."

Jenny was profuse in her gratitude. She had such a happy-go-lucky way with her and liked people so much that they enjoyed doing things for her. Later in the day the janitor appeared again with a little velvet foot stool and a kitchen chair. Still later there was a table and an upholstered rocking chair. These were all carried upstairs regardless of the fact that they had to be carried down again the next day. The little janitor enjoyed the approbation and was always willing to do such little jobs even though his regular work suffered as a result of it.

The next morning he hustled around interviewing women and moving men to try to find one who would not charge Jenny too much, and appeared later in the morning with a taxicab. The driver, a big Italian, offered to move all the pieces which the janitor had collected for Jenny for two dollars.

"But don't forget to bring in anything you want me to bring in," Jenny insisted. By this time she was feeling opulent. But the taxicab driver insisted that everything could be ac

Commodated in his luxurious cab. While Jenny watched he carried her dishes and closed the fat taxi man brought all the things which the janitor had laboriously brought up the stairs, down again. The tenancy and the children squirmed themselves in too, and they were off.

The neighbors leaned out of their windows to watch, other cab drivers took the new driver explored the hope that he would not be called down for the metamorphosis of his cab into a truck.

The new apartment the driver helped carry everything in, admired the new apartment, helpfuly saw off the rockers of the big upholstered chair which was too big to get in the door.

"And what," he wanted to know, "are you going to do for a bed?"

"Oh, buy one," said Jenny airily. The janitor tried to assure her of the bargain she would get if she bought the day bed, which opened out—a fine cretonne cover two—which he had only slept on for two years and which his mother didn't want any more since he had gotten married.

But Jenny had fifteen dollars in her pocket. She went out and bought a new bed, she reflected, would have to be small, but the apartment was small and what should have been the maid's room was already crowded with the books and the cribs and there was no use messing up the living room by having a girl sleeping on hard boards was very good for the spine she used to say too. We used to think longingly of Mrs. Goldstein's husband had lost his job—Mrs. Goldstein, mama says would you lend her forty cents. She has no money."

"Really, people eat twice as much as they need, a little girl ran in. "Mrs. Goldstein, maama says you lend her forty cents. She has no money."

"Mrs. Goldstein fetched it out of her pocket. The store had a pleasant odor of bread and herring. It was clean and Mrs. Goldstein was clean.

As Jenny went up her front steps where her children had already made friends with neighbors' children, the janitress pointed to a huckster in the street.

"Buy one," she said.

"But there is too much furniture," he said, "can you use another bed?"

"Tell me what you got and I'll see if I want any," she said. Jenny was always glad to do such little jobs even though his regular work suffered as a result of it.

The janitress had halted them all with her broom. "Jimmy, your supper's jaw."

As Jenny had fed the children and was sitting by the kitchen table waiting for her husband she listened to the night noises of this new city she had moved to. Night noises and smells of the street and the odors of the smells of the street and the odors of the house she earned at least paid the milk bill at home.

Six o'clock. Mrs. Farragut didn't need an alarm clock. Young Junior acted the part perfectly well. Every morning he started his chorus: "Mary!"

And Mary had to get up quick and take him and his little sister out to the kitchen before Mrs. Farragut and her husband were awakened. They liked to sleep until eight. And even then their sleep was disturbed. It was impossible to keep the children quiet. They liked to make a noise in the morning.

There was breakfast to prepare. Cereal, orange juice and milk and toast and a soft boiled egg for each. It was good there was enough food for a nice breakfast. Usually there wasn't enough for lunch or for supper. Mrs. Ferguson cooked those meals and she watched for the food to go fed biterly over Mary's large appetite.

"Really, people eat twice as much as they need to. And I do like to keep the food bills down."

By the time Mrs. Ferguson and her husband were up there was another breakfast to get and then there were other little things to do for the children. And after breakfast dishes to wash, the floor to mop up—Mrs. Ferguson was a rigid housekeeper. And the tub of clothes. But if it were a nice day—"You can leave the clothes until you get back, Mary, and do them then. Take the children out now to the park."

Clothes changed, faces washed, and all the paraphernalia of a morning in the park. Honeymooners, coats, pull-down hats, shovels, pails, skates, bicycles—she was always laden down.

Her own coat was not very warm and she used to think longingly of Mrs. Ferguson's second best raccoon coat which she had once secretly tried on.

"The nerve! Mary! Ferguson would have said she knew.

Two hours out in the wintry sun and then in to lunch, and the long task of making the children eat their lunch. "Now Bobby, don't put your plate on the top of your head! Oh, look, the spinach is running down in his eyes."

"Mary, you must be more careful! How many times have I told you? Don't keep saying don't to them. If you would read those books I gave you on the treatment you'd be learning something and fitting yourself for something better than just a mother's helper job. You might even be a kindergarten teacher some day."

After lunch, changing the children, washing them again, putting them away for their naps. Mary's eyes were very heavy too, by the day. Even the boards set up on the top of the bathtub beckoned invitingly. But there were too many things to do. Dishes again mounted, the children's table washed, the bottle and even the little chairs—

(Continued on page 8, column 1)
Mary is Fifteen
(Continued from page 7, column 4)

selves to be scrubbed. And then the clothes, neglected in the morning, to be washed.

Mrs. Ferguson always forgot that she had shoed Mary out with the children. "If you only had more system and got them done first thing in the morning! If you only worked faster!

And so the day went. At three-thirty the children were up again. There were vegetables to be prepared for supper. And you might as well take Junior with you, he's such a nuisance around the house." Supper for the children, dishes, dinner for the grown-ups and sometimes company. Children to be put to bed, more dishes to be washed. And then sometimes interminable evenings when the children cried and fussed and Mary was kept running.

Oh, it was a long day, a hard day, and life with a succession of such days seemed hard to bear.

And this, unfortunately, is not a "story," but an account of facts. Of course, another and little story could be written about the harassed mother who was used always to having help and what a difficult time she was having to adjust herself, and how she was put upon by the inefficient girl she had taken in, and how the girl ruined more than she helped things, and how she neglected in,

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and to all intents and purposes, to look forward to in the future of the present social system.

A Thought for the Day
BY FATHER GILLIS, C.S.P.

There are those today who fancy that their salvation is secure, because they have been validly baptized, because their brows have been signed with the Sign of the Cross, because they attend religious service with fair regularity, because they make their Easter duty, and because they expect to be anointed with oil on their deathbed.

But if they neglect "the weightier things of the law," justice, mercy, charity, purity, their fate has already been spoken. The harlots shall enter the kingdom of heaven sooner than they.—FATHER GILLIS, C.S.P. in "A Thought a Day for Lent."

Worker's Letters
(Continued from page 3, column 3)

time he has given the help two cuts between April and March 1st, of this year, and since has given another ten per cent cut. It is now almost impossible to make any more than $7 a week for five and one-half days.

"If after reading this letter, you in your good and honest judgment think that conditions should be investigated, and conditions changed, I know that all the employees would welcome an investigation very much."—An Underpaid Worker.

Waitresses in a chain of restaurants with many branches in New York are being paid 9-11½ cents an hour. Another large restaurant company in New York City pays its waitresses 10 cents an hour.

Letters of complaint indicate that there are many restaurants in N. Y. C. in which the waitresses receive no wages at all, but have to depend entirely on tips. The following letter was received:

"I am employed by a high class restaurant company listed on the Stock Exchange as a dividend payer.

"I get 19 cents an hour and the manager wants to cut several of the girls down to one hour work a day—from 12:30 to 1:30. It costs me 10 cents each way for car fare so that I shall be one cent a day out of my pocket; and not only this—the manager expects the girls to contribute each week to the firm's unemployed public relief fund."

Another waitress writes:

"I believe there is a labor law by which an employer is barred from enforcing employees to exact their compensation entirely through tips. This method has just been made ineffect in the — Tea Room. The waitresses are compelled to depend entirely upon the generosity of patrons, which is most inefficient from a livable standpoint."

"It is painless that in our days not alone is wealth accumulated, but immoral power and despotic economic domination is concentrated in the hands of a few, and that those few are frequently not the owners, but only the trustees and directors of invested funds, who administer it at their own good pleasure."—Pius XI.

A Note of Cheer in Denver Mine Report

Miss Josephine Roche sends from Denver the annual report of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, of which she is president.

This company is one which, contrary to the custom of Colorado coal companies, gives full recognition to the coal miners' union and in general accord with its workers' superior treatment. The company made substantial income gains in 1932 over 1931. After meeting all expenses, it was able to apply to book revenue charges 500 per cent of the amount available in 1931.

The company's mines worked 191 days in 1932 as compared with 126 days worked by all other mines in the state. It paid the highest wages of any coal mine in that state.

WEALTH-PRODUCING MANIACS

When John Calvin legalized money lending at interest, he made the bank account the standard of value. When the banks became the standard of values, people ceased to produce for use and began to produce for profit.

When people began to produce for profit, they became wealth-producing maniacs. When people became wealth-producing maniacs they produced too much wealth.

When people found out that they had produced too much wealth they went on an orgy of wealth-destruction and destroyed ten million lives besides.

And after fifteen years of a worldwide orgy of wealth and life-destructive mania, millions of people find themselves victims of a world-wide depression brought about by a world gone mad on mass-production and mass-distribution.

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