

# THE DAILY WORKER

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# 'MUST HAVE UNION' SAY FORD WORKERS

## FIVE-DAY WEEK IN FORD PLANT ONLY FLIM FLAM

### Practically a Wage Cut, Say Workers

By CARL HAESSLER, Federated Press.

DETROIT, Oct. 6.—(FP)—Wage juggling is as vicious an element in the Detroit automobile labor situation as is direct wage cutting, labor men in the motor capital of the world declare. When an employer like Henry Ford makes his exhausted workers produce in five days what they were hitherto putting out in five and one-half, and pays them for five days, instead of five and one-half, it is pretty tough to have half-baked nitwits all over the country halt this latest sweating device as another step to the social millennium. At least that is what Ford's sweatshop victims think. Of course there is a "merit bonus." Unfortunately the meritorious worker is a rare animal.

Demand Below Supply. "The trouble in the trade at the present time," says Arthur Rohan, incoming executive secretary of the United Automobile Workers, "is that the demand is falling below the supply and considerably below the normal productive capacity of the plants."

Favors Industrial Unionism. Rohan's organization, which used to be in the American Federation of Labor but was suspended in 1917 for enrolling within its industrial hospitality workers claimed by other internationals, has received a friendly letter from Pres. Wm. Green, promising to take up the question of how the union can rejoin the mother body. Industrial unionism has become a more favored solution for organizing auto workers in recent years than when the 1917 Buffalo convention ousted the U. I. T.

Other Plants Doing It. Other shops are doing the same or similar things. Packard recently fired 26 men covering decks or roofs on closed cars who were getting 70 cents an hour—not a princely wage for speeded work. Packard then took on 26 new men and is paying them 56 cents an hour for the same work. This maker of high-class, high-price cars pays his men partly in bunk, giving them a merit button after five years of service and a watch after 15 years.

## Federal Judge Aided Open Shop in Strike; Forced to Fine Firm

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## AUBURN AUTOMOBILE COMPANY TAKES OVER DUESENBERG MOTORS

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Oct. 6.—Automobile circles buzzed with interest today over the announcement of E. L. Cord, president of the Auburn Automobile company, that they had purchased the entire plant, equipment and assets of the Duesenberg Motors company for a consideration said to involve \$500,000.

## FORD KEARNEY WORKERS FEEL RETRENCHMENT

(Special to The Daily Worker)

JERSEY CITY, N. J., Oct. 6.—In the Ford Kearney branch we are beginning to feel the effect of retrenchment and reduction in wages. Five days pay for six days work is now an established fact according to the bulletin board. Yes—some increases are to be given out, but only on merit! One department had its force cut down one-third and the rest were told to keep up production in anticipation of a raise. This information filtered down from plant manager Mr. Husey and Supt. Gartha to all foremen.

To sum up, Henry Ford's profits taking into consideration the number of men discharged, the scale of production kept at the same level and similar methods applied to thirty-three branches, he does save a pretty penny. According to an article covering a personal interview, he now intends to drop the policy of a minimum wage and pay according to one's merit. The final blow is when he bursts with generosity and hands us five days a week. Ford forgets he exceeded that record. We in "Kearney" worked three and four days a week in the past year—why keep his "improvement" in the hours of labor under his hat so long?

## Date Factory Workers Spurn Compromise of Employers on Strike

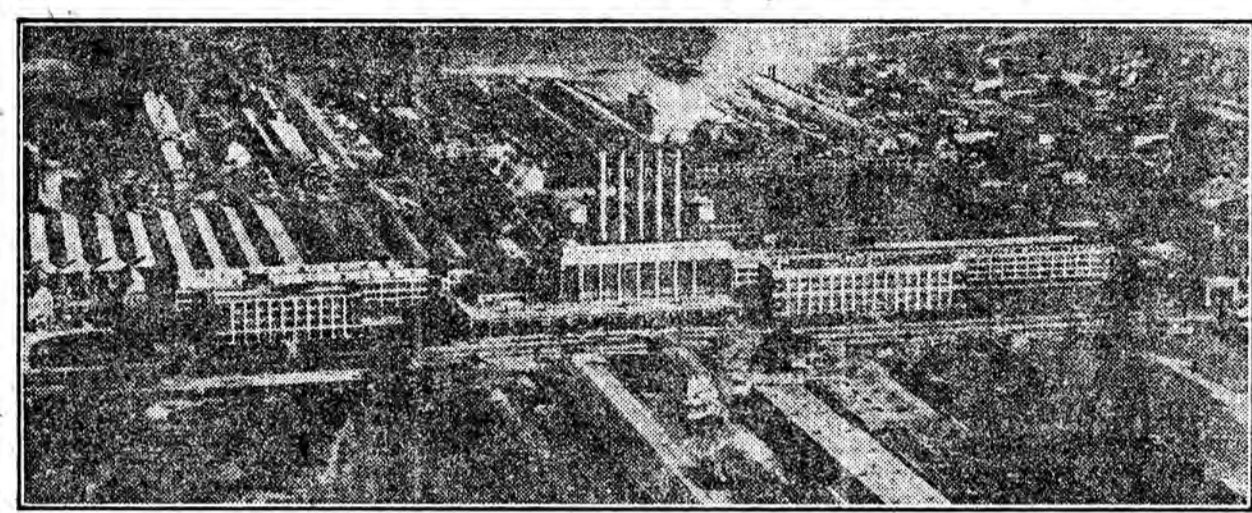
Begged by the bosses of the Maras and company date factory to return to work at the present scale of wages, the 125 Negro women who went on strike Saturday after a reduction notice was posted, voted Wednesday morning unanimously to refuse the offer of the bosses and to remain on strike.

The virtual submission of the bosses spurred the women to proceed with their plans to form a union organization. They are determined to do this before the strike is settled.

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## HERE IS A VIEW OF ONE OF THE BIG SLAVE PENS



Above is an airplane panorama of the Highland Park of the Ford Motor Company. This was the first big Ford factory. In the meantime another much larger works has been built called the Fordson, on the River Rouge, near Detroit. In such plants as the above, 115,000 or so slaves are engaged directly in the work of turning out Lizzies at 2,000,000 a year. There is hardly a large center in the country that has not its big Ford assembling plant with automatons working just as in Detroit. In addition to this there are other helots working in coal mines, lumber forests, glass works and on the Ford railroad—all, under the crushing Ford speed-up system.

## Fifteen Minutes for Lunch

THE ASSEMBLY LINE SPEED-UP—CALL A NUMBER TO GET TO THE LAVATORY—FALL ASLEEP ON CAR STRAPS—PRY INTO PRIVATE LIFE OF WORKERS

By J. M., a Ford Worker. DETROIT, Mich., Oct. 6.—Working on the assembly line in the Highland Park plant of the Ford Motor Co., one finds working men from all parts of the United States. Most of these men just came to Detroit to work for Ford because they heard that he was a good guy to work for. So they threw up their jobs in their home towns and came to work for the "best boss in the United States."

assembly lines is the closest thing to what hell is described to be by a baptist preacher. Can't Stand Gaff. On this line, when there is no let up the whole day through, where you are forced to work at full speed for the whole eight hours under those damnable blue lights, where to go even to a lavatory you have to call out a number and wait until you can be replaced, where only fifteen minutes is allowed for dinner, and where one out of every seven week is a straw boss—makes all those fellows that come to Detroit to work for the "best boss in the United States" last not so long. They cannot stand the gaff.

allowed to eat lunch in. Fifteen minutes does not allow time enough for washing the grease off one's hands. So we have to eat grease and oil along with our meals. And still Henry Ford writes about keeping your health by chewing food slowly. And how hard is the eight hours on a person! Well—I get home from work and the only thing I feel like doing is to lay down and go to sleep. Get on any of the cars that carry Ford workers home from work and you will find men who work only eight hours a day, hanging on to the straps sleeping—all fagged out.



## WHY DOES HENRY FORD FEAR TRADE UNIONS?

His Fake Argument About Management - Thinks He Has Established Industrial Monarchy - Workers Have A Right To Organize - Ford Workers Will Have Union Too - When They Fight For It.

By THURBER LEWIS. HENRY FORD is against trade unions. The reason he is against them is, as he puts it, that they are "limitations" upon a business. He claims that he pays his men higher wages than trade unions could ever get for them. Trade unions would be a hindrance to him. Such are Ford's main arguments against the organization of his industry. He would not permit it. He would fight hard to prevent unionization even to the smallest degree.

To a certain extent this is true, because the first ones to sing his praises were trade union leaders whose business it is to organize just such open shop plants as Ford runs. But the five-day week is not going down so well with the worker in the plant. He knows that he is producing as much and will later be called upon to produce more in five days than he formerly did in five and a half. There is just as much, if not more, reason for the Ford plants to be organized from roof to cellar as any other open shop industry in the land.

parts of the world. At least two hundred thousand strong and able men are directly in the employ of the Ford Motor company or auxiliary institutions. These men are automatons. More so in the Ford industry than in any other in the world. Ford claims that he thinks of his men always as human beings. In all of his publicity works, books, pamphlets, magazine articles, etc. (written by skilled press agents), Ford delivers himself of a great deal of humanitarism, trying to create the impression that his first thought is for the men in his plants.

Trade Union Leaders' Praise. NOW that he thinks he has started the world with the announcement of the "five-day week," he presumes that he has added one more blow to the possibility of unionizing his plants.

FORD doesn't want unions because he wants to maintain his status as an industrial monarch. Ford personally rules the destiny of some million persons who are directly or indirectly dependent upon his industry in all

FORD'S plants prove just the opposite. They demonstrate that Ford thinks ever so much more of a penny or a minute saved here and

## Ford Shop Nuclei Show Workers the Way

The shop nuclei of the Workers (Communist) Party in the Ford factories of Detroit are showing a splendid example in rallying to KEEP THE DAILY WORKER.

If every other unit of the party and every friend of The DAILY WORKER will follow up the good results gotten by these workers in the Ford factories, The DAILY WORKER will wind up its campaign in a few weeks.

members were present, but we came across strong, collected \$69.00 and \$45.00 in pledges which will be paid at the next meeting. One comrade nearing the age of 70 has pledged \$25.00. The comrades in taking the floor have shown the necessity of supporting this drive more than ever before. In the past, we have always gone over the top with our quota, and this time we will double the amount. Yes! If necessary, we will triple it. We know what it means to lose our only English Daily, the revolutionary expression of the working class in its bitter class struggle. We are in the front ranks to fight to the last man before we will let the banner of THE DAILY WORKER fall.

THE DAILY WORKER, 1113 W. WASHINGTON BLVD., CHICAGO, ILL. Dear Comrades: Enclosed find money order for \$69.00 and check for \$100.00, totalling \$169.00. \$69.00 is donated by comrades of Shop Nucleus No. 1, and \$100.00 by the central bureau of the Ford Nuclei, which prints The Daily Worker. This is our response towards KEEPING THE DAILY WORKER. At the last meeting of the Shop Nucleus No. 1, we took up the question of KEEPING THE DAILY WORKER very seriously. Only twenty

## FORD FIVE-DAY WEEK MANEUVER IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH FIGHT OF WORKERS AND A. F. OF L. MEET

DETROIT, Oct. 6.—The Ford Motor company's five-day week maneuver is the outstanding act of strategy on the part of a capitalist organization in the class struggle thus far in 1926.

To realize the nature and significance of this maneuver workers must consider other events. One is the successful strike of the New York furriers for a 40-hour or five-day week. Another event is the annual convention here of the American Federation of Labor. The furriers' victory preceded by a few weeks the Ford Motor company's five-day week proclamation. And the proclamation immediately preceded the A. F. of L. convention. It is not a coincidence that these three events are in this order in this summer and fall—this summer and fall that have brought also the Passaic strike, the British miners' strike and the "Ford Worker." The "Ford Worker" is a shop bulletin issued by class conscious workers in the Ford shops.

When the Ford Motor Co. first entered into major quantity production several years ago it was a newcomer in the automotive field. To carry out the Ford idea of popularizing the automobile meant building more automobiles than had ever been imagined up to that time. It meant employing more men than had ever before been employed in one factory in the automobile industry. Henry Ford and his circle had the engine, chassis and body. They had capital and confidence. What they needed was a suitable organization, that is, an industrial army corps for mass production, built around a mere nucleus of skilled men.

In those days the automotive industry was a boom industry. It was a field of high adventure for a new kind of "captain of industry." And, as in all boom industries, the labor turnover, or replacement, was excessive and costly. The Ford circle believed that to succeed with their plan they must reduce in their own shops the prevalent rate of labor turnover. And they believed they must and could do another thing. They believed they must and could avoid the penetration of their shops by union organizers. They solved both problems by a method never before or since so daringly or shrewdly attempted. To use an auctioneer's phrase, they outbid both their competitors and the established trade unions.

Trade Unions. They offered wages and hours not only far in advance of the prevailing wage but in advance of wages and hours unions in other places were demanding or striking for. Pavement and sidewalk outside the Ford Motor Co. employment office became a parade ground for automobile workers from other automobile factories, who were looking for work at the Ford scale. The Ford Motor Co. took its pick. In a short time men asking for jobs found themselves on a waiting list thousands of names long. To get a Ford job inside of two weeks meant adroit politics. If a man was in the good graces of a woman who was intimate with a Ford executive or a Ford physician he could "arrange" to have his application card advanced on the list. These arrangements were usually made over beer or whisky. It was supposed to be worth it.

Men didn't get \$5 a day for the first six months on the payroll. Unstabilized workers usually left in a few weeks. The expense of the labor turnover for the Ford Motor Co. was thus at a much lower rate than \$5 a day. The Ford Motor Co. eventually stabilized the automobile worker. Men married and contracted to buy homes to have preference over single men when a lay-off came. Those were the days of Ford's "sociological investigations."

And the Ford Motor Co. was not troubled by union organizers. By outbidding the established unions and all competitors in wages and conditions the Ford Motor Co., unmolested, recruited a picked force for mass production, feared no shortage of any class of labor and made money at it, at \$5 a day, minimum.

## MAY ACCEPT OPEN SHOP'S CHALLENGE

Churches Obey Capital and Shut Labor Out

(BULLETIN) (Special to The Daily Worker) DETROIT, Oct. 6.—The issue of unionization of Detroit labor reached the floor of the A. F. of L. convention today with the adoption of a resolution proposing the inauguration of a general organization, campaign in the automobile industry, 80 per cent of which is centered around Detroit. It was offered by James O'Connell of the Metal Trades Department of the A. F. of L.

Churches Support Open Shop. DETROIT, Oct. 6.—With the Protestant churches and the Y. M. C. A. as the storm center, capital and labor were at grips today in their fight to determine whether this great industrial city shall continue as an open shop or become a unionized labor center.

This, the first storm to break the tranquility of the forty-sixth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor which convened here Monday, broke in its full fury last night when President William Green of the A. F. of L., openly charged that the churches of Detroit were dominated by the manufacturing interests of the community.

Green's attack was inspired by published reports in Detroit earlier in the day that the invitations for the Sunday meetings had been recalled overnight. There had been no formal notification to labor leaders of this action.









