

Daily Worker Exposes Evils of Housing in Harlem; Show How Negro Workers Are Plundered by Landlords

PLAN MAY DAY ANTI-WAR RALLY

Big Coliseum Is Signed for Demonstration

May Day this year will be utilized for mobilization against the imminent war danger, and many thousands of workers in New York will take part in the huge mass meeting. The New York District Executive Committee of the Communist Party has announced that the Party, together with left wing trade unions, has signed a contract for the Coliseum, at 117th street and Bronx Rixer Avenue, which seats 20,000.

Many militant trade unions already have arranged to participate in the May Day demonstration, which assumes especial importance this year on account of the international situation and the preparations for a new world war.

Preparations are practically completed for the united front conference of labor organizations at Irving Plaza Sunday, April 14, beginning at 1 p. m. This conference will prepare plans for the May Day demonstration and for mobilizing the workers of New York for this occasion.

All militant labor organizations which have not already elected delegates to this conference are requested to do so at once.

MOBILIZATION CALL

A meeting of extraordinary importance for Section 2 and 3, is called by instruction of the D. E. C., for Tuesday, April 9th, at 6 p. m., at the Workers Center. All

N. Y. State Commission Admits It Will Do Nothing for Tenants

By SOL. AUERBACH.

How is the worker housed?

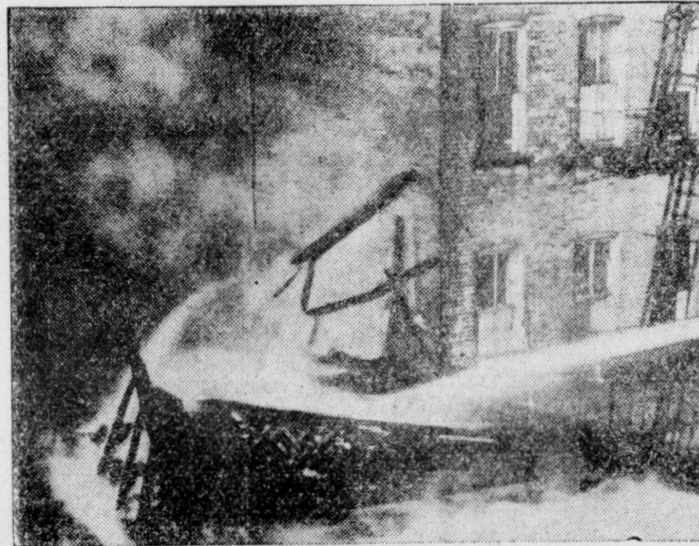
After a day in the factory, in the shop, on the building operation, in a digging gang—what is the home-like to which he comes for rest?

Under what conditions must his wife and children live?

After being exploited in industry how is he exploited by the landlords?

What Pay?

The average pay of the factory worker is said to be about \$20 per week in New York City. This means that by far the greater



Scenes like these strike dread into the hearts of tenants in the working class districts of every large city. In some cases fire-escapes do not reach the ground floor, or are so old and rusty that they would collapse in an emergency. It does not take much flame to destroy old, condemned tenements.

majority of workers get \$20 or lower for a weeks' work if they work full time and are employed.

According to even the New York State Commission of Housing and Regional Planning, dwellings which are half decent are beyond

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EXPECT LARGEST YWL CONVENTION

Textile Strikers Will Be Delegates

The Fifth National Convention of the Young Workers (Communist) League of America, which opens April 26, 1929, in New York City, will be the largest and most representative in the history of the League.

More than 100 delegates will attend, including fraternal delegates from the Communist Youth Leagues of Canada and Mexico. This will serve to establish co-operation between the Canadian, Mexican and American Leagues and will help in coordinating the struggle against American imperialism, the United States League declares.

There will be fraternal delegates from many working class youth organizations, youth sections of trade unions and other fraternal organizations.

One of the features of the convention will be a delegation from the South, largely of young textile workers, who have been active in the recent strikes. This will be the first time that the South will be represented at a National Communist Youth Convention.

The list of delegates from the League districts and from the Communist Party follows:

District 1	6
District 2	11
District 3	4
District 4	1
District 5	3
District 6	3
District 7	1
District 8	5
District 9-M	1
District 9-S	1

'Daily' Begins Exposing Workers' Housing Evils

(Continued from Page One)

the rent-paying ability of two-thirds of the population.

The same commission reports that rents are still rising.

The commission also reports that living conditions are awful in the tenement districts where the population of the large cities is concentrated, where the workers live.



Workers Robbed by Bosses and Landlords.

A state commission of one form or another has been investigating tenement conditions in New York City since 1842. Their findings have always been the same. Intolerable living conditions, high rents, a state of affairs menacing "public welfare." They have made some suggestions and the legislature passed some laws.

Conditions Worse.

But tenement conditions have been getting steadily worse since 1842 and today the working class districts of New York City are hell-holes, corralled off from the high-class business sections and residential sections—a dumping ground for the workers removed from the delicate nostrils of Fifth Avenue and Riverside Drive.

The same conditions prevail in other large cities, let alone the numerous company-owned towns and villages scattered over the industrial field, and the unbearable huts and hovels of the poor farmers and Negro croppers.

The commissions which have been appointed by New York State administration to remove the "menace to public welfare" have written lengthy reports every year and suggested regional planning as a "permanent solution" of the housing problem. According to these reports themselves, even if these suggestions were put into effect they would relieve that part of the population which needs no relief. The new houses which are suggested would rent at a rate above anything two-thirds of the tenants could possibly pay.

No Relief.

Even the chairman of that commission has to admit that there is no possible relief for the workers in the tenements.

"There is no solution to that problem," he said. "It is a social one." And that settled the matter for him and the capitalist state. To hell with two-thirds of the population!

In order to pile up votes republican and democratic politicians have had housing bills introduced into the state legislature. These bills mean nothing to the working class tenants. They are only political hooks to play around with in the state assembly.

The rent emergency laws, which were introduced supposedly to prevent rent speculation, had a catch to them, as do all laws passed by a capitalist government in relation to the workers. It applied only to old tenants, not to those who had moved in during or after the year they were passed. In spite of them rents continued to rise after 1922, as they did before, for city officials take graft and the landlord can afford to pay a little drinking money which he squeezes out ten-fold from the tenants.

The last of these laws—applying to all flats which rent at \$10 per room per month or below—will expire May 31. The landlords are even more unrestricted now.

Rents To Leap.

In New York City rents will leap.

As a result there will be dispossesses. Workers, their families and household goods will find themselves on the street more often than previously.

The Tammany and republican politicians are only interested in the tenement districts during election. Their promises are lies. They intend to do nothing for the workingclass tenants.

In Reading and Milwaukee where so-called socialists lead the municipal governments, similar conditions prevail.

In the meantime, while politicians promise and take their graft, while more honest investigators for the capitalist government say



Intolerable housing conditions, which amount to prison conditions, prevail in the company-owned towns scattered thruout the country. The bosses' pigs roam about the back yards of the Negro workers living in these shacks owned by the Armour fertilizer plant at Nashville, Tenn.

that there is no solution to the problem and give it up, millions of toilers return to the dumping grounds every night from a hard-days work, where they have been sweated with speed-up and given a starvation wage.

They come to tenements which have been condemned as far back as 1901, some as far back as 1864—dwellings which are surrounded by filth, which are fire-traps, for which they pay an unbelievable high rent.

Negroes Greatest Victims.

That is not all. In every city Negro workers are made to go to a "dumping ground" especially designed for them.

We will see that segregation brings the landlord lots of dollars. Negro workers can find lodgings only in certain districts. In many cases they must pay rents higher than in any other sections.

We do not believe that this problem cannot be solved. The problem can be solved by the workingclass tenants themselves—colored and white. Mass pressure can wring concessions from even a brutal ruling class and when the time comes can take them.

We have gone into the workingclass districts and spoken to the workers and their wives. In New York City we have gone into Harlem especially, for there can be seen all the evil products of segregation.

Details to Follow.

The results of this investigation will be published in the Daily Worker from day to day. The first part of the series will deal with the conditions of the Negro tenants in Harlem, another part will deal with the Latin American tenants who have also been segregated in the southern part of Harlem. There also will be reports of housing conditions in other cities.

The series will include a program for working class tenants.

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In tomorrow's Daily Worker follow the Daily Worker investigator into the dumping ground known as Harlem.