

Militant Mine Family Blacklisted Since 1919

By VERA BUCH.

BLACKLISTED since 1919. Unable to work in the mines for nine years because of unusual militancy in the 1919 strike. And just as active now, one of the best of the best fighters among all the militant miners. * This is the record of Thomas Ray of McDonald, Pa.

But on Tom Ray's household, on his wife and seven children, the bosses' discrimination has fallen very heavily. They live in one of those black, tumble-down, mean looking houses which you sometimes see bordering the railroad tracks in little towns, and wonder when you see them, "Does anyone live in that?" In such a house lives or rather exists, Tom Ray's family.

You ask Mrs. Ray, "How have you managed to get along all these years?" She smiles quietly and sadly. "I don't know. We have one boy sixteen years old. He gets a

job in a mill, sometimes."

It seems hard for her to talk, as though she never saw anyone, as though she had lived alone for a long time among worries and dreariness. Rarely does Mrs. Ray leave the house. She is ashamed to go out in her worn woolen dress, the only dress she has. These nine years have crushed Mrs. Ray, have drained her vitality. Yet she is still a young woman.

From all the corners of that dingy home, Tom Ray's bright active children peer at you with lively brown eyes. They are not crushed—they are eager to hear about the strike and the union. Tom Ray is bringing up seven young fighters to carry on the fight in the future. He has been in New York City raising money thru the National Miners' Relief Committee for the hungry strikers and he tells the eager children about the strikes he's heard about there.