

Child Labor--A Modern Pestilence

(Continued from page 1)
 remains or of improving state legis-
 lators to act against it, no one who
 DARE defend it.

The elegant grands dames of the
 Dattney do not know when they
 drape themselves over their antique
 chairs after noon tea but that the
 slinky trail of child labor will spread
 a loathsome vengeance upon them--
 that is, in those of them that are
 already infected thru indulging in the
 favorite pastime of the ruling class
 seducing each others' wives and hus-
 bands.

But those who distill the blood of
 children into profits are not concerned
 about such abstract considerations as
 the welfare of society. Speak to them
 of the ghastliness of child labor and
 they reply with the bourgeois philis-
 tine shibboleth: "There is no social
 issue in business."

The Economics of Child Labor
 While the working class cannot escape
 the effects of the spread of
 disease emanating in the foul holes
 where children slave, it must face
 another enemy equally as dangerous.
 The spread of child labor will in-
 evitably result in wholesale reduction
 of wages of adult workers because it
 fosters a condition where the whole
 family must work in order to earn
 sufficient to enable it to exist.

Under capitalist production the
 value of labor power, the one com-
 modity the worker has to sell, is deter-
 mined by the value of the neces-

saries of life required by the average
 family that is, the father's wage
 of an ordinary, to stay as the child-
 ren. Unless this condition prevails
 there is a violation of the very laws
 of capitalist production itself, the
 profit economic fact that the worker
 must produce sufficient to main-
 tain himself, but that his wage
 must enable him to support a family
 by thereby another convention were
 slaves may be able to step into the
 place of the present one.

When other members of the family
 are thrown upon the labor market the
 result is the spreading of the value
 of the labor power of the husband over
 the whole family, thus degrading his
 own labor power. First of this
 effect of child labor can be obtained
 where child labor prevails. In the cot-
 ton mills of the south this is so clear-
 ly that the so-called "poor" white
 laboring class actually measure their pro-
 sperity by the number of children they
 have to send into the slave pens of
 the number of children is greater than
 the average, the family income is
 reduced--the parents are so devoid of
 that which the bourgeoisie like to
 parade as the parental instinct that
 they look upon their own children only
 as adjuncts of machines to be put in
 operation at the earliest possible
 moment. Many of these parents were
 child slaves themselves, marrying in
 their early teens--many girls become

mothers at fourteen in these districts
 and devoid of pay for the numerous
 of an ordinary, to stay as the child-
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cause of their notorious ignorance of
 everything pertaining to economic
 life, they are utterly incapable of
 support his wife and child-
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It is only the Communists who can
 analyze the system that produces
 child labor and it is only the Com-
 munist who are capable of taking
 the lead in mobilizing the workers
 for united action in defense of the
 elementary interests of labor. We
 fight today for eradication of the
 present amendment, thereby point-
 ing the way in every stratum that
 affects the working class, but we
 know full well the limitations of par-
 liamentary reform and to the extent
 that workers in large numbers volun-
 tarily in such struggles to that extent
 will they come to realize that the con-
 dition, the economic of the United
 States, the various State legislatures
 in fact the whole government ap-
 paratus--exists only for the purpose
 in child labor slavery. This is part
 of a struggle that can only end when
 the workers of the United States,
 under the leadership of the Workers
 (Communist) Party, smash the state
 power of the capitalist class and es-
 tablish a workers' republic.

There is no sentiment in busi-
 ness, especially when they deal with
 the devastation caused by capitalism
 (read that the Spruce were accurate
 they do not prove a decline of the
 number of child slaves, for the simple
 reason that the 1910 census was 11.5
 in a year of so-called "boom" 1910
 1917 while the 1920 census was taken
 at the beginning of a period of unem-
 ployment and at a season of the year
 when employment, especially in steel
 labor was at the lowest point. The
 additional fact that the federal child
 labor law was at that time on the
 its books must be taken into con-
 sideration. It was the suppression of
 child labor that this law amount
 to in 1922 that necessitated a
 constitutional amendment to give con-
 gress the power to enact a federal
 child labor law. Six or seven con-
 gresses that the one hundred sev-
 enty congress to 1934 have not
 even passed legislation to legislate
 for the protection of children from
 the jackal pack of capitalism.

A Tale of Two Pest Holes
 The census of 1920 informs us that
 in New York City there are 223,3
 children between 10 and 15 years of
 age "legally employed" and that in
 Jersey City, N. J. there are 42,275
 Just like the normal child, these fig-
 ures are small--much smaller than the
 facts revealing child slavery. New
 York would have about three millions
 half-grown and adult child, probably
 more than 10,000,000. 1920. 1922
 years of age that slave 1,000,000
 with right in the most appalling con-
 ditions--"hot houses". Hearing re-
 ports of the conditions in certain dis-
 tricts, I accompanied by other trade
 unionists, inspected some of these
 both in New York and Jersey City
 and was staggered by the appalling con-
 ditions existing in a supposedly civil-
 ized country.

In New York City in three different
 sections--the Bronx, the Lower East
 Side and Brooklyn--we found children
 both boys and girls, working on "back-
 yards". There are three districts in
 these cities and the children have to
 saw bright colored boards on the de-
 sires, for which they are paid stand-
 ing to the whim of the employers, who
 deliver the screws and heads at the
 "houses" of the workers and call them
 them when finished. Woods fall and
 even children as young as six and
 seven years do this work for a few
 one month a hour, at a time strain-
 ing their bodies to get such a job
 in the house shape, in which they
 find, brutal, degrading pain. It is
 only a more pitiable creature

"The idea becomes
 power when it pen-
 etrates the masses."
 --Karl Marx.

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January 24, 1925.

Child Labor--A Modern Pestilence

By H. M. WICKS

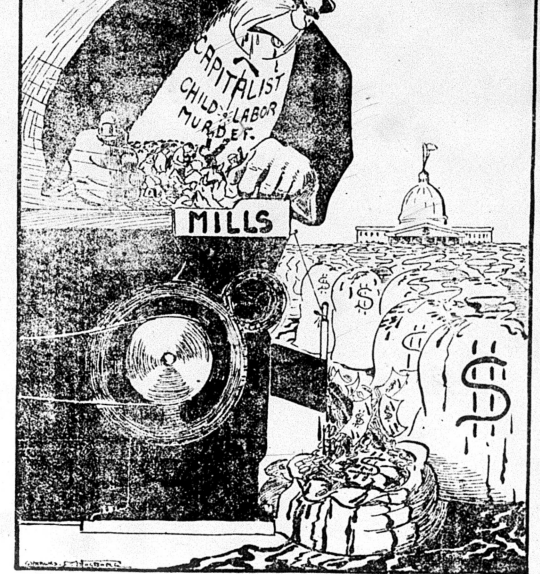
INCREDIBLY ghastly in its ravages
 among his helpless victims, child
 labor has become a modern pestilence
 over every human being in the nation.
 There are two types of child labor in
 the United States today, the open
 employment of children in factories,
 mills, mines, department stores and in
 agriculture, and the further slavery
 of children in the confines of the
 hotels they call homes. It is the ac-
 celeration that speeds these two in-
 vasion, because it is more carefully
 concealed.

For statistics from the last census
 conducted by the U. S. government
 (1920) inform us that there were at
 that time 1,950,000 children between
 the ages of 10 and 15 years "legally
 employed" throughout the country. I
 have seen the figures regarding the
 division of this group between indus-
 tries and agriculture. The same gov-
 ernment report presents labor statis-
 tics to prove that child labor has
 decreased since the census of 1910
 like all government reports, this one
 requires further investigation. It is
 poor policy to take the statements of a
 capitalist government at their face
 value, especially when they deal with
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SECOND SECTION
 This magazine supple-
 ment will appear every
 Saturday in The Daily
 Worker.



There were the same signs of occu-
 pational deformities that were observed
 in New York. This work is as arduous
 and requires so much speed to car-
 ry the most pitiable that the ends of
 the children's fingers constantly bleed
 from being stuck with needles, some
 of them are infected and stude pain
 during a survey conducted two years
 ago, Wisconsin blood tests were
 taken of some of those children and
 many of them presented positive
 signs of iron poisoning. In fact, the
 fact that some of them had iron
 poisoning was a shocking discovery.
 The New York State children
 through the State in the four years
 (1910-1914) the family life in a semi-civil-
 ized country.

on the childhood of the nation, but it
 menaces every person that patronize
 in grocery store, or buys clothing or
 in any manner more in the society
 if the pest holes of the Bronx, the low
 East Side, Brooklyn, Jersey City
 and hundreds of other places through-
 out the nation could be visited by intel-
 ligent workers they would rise in their
 might and scourge from the is a co-
 the earth the contemptible slave con-
 dition of this foul place. If the
 facts regarding child labor were once
 known it would not be a question of
 parliamentary discussion, but a state re-
 volution (Continued on page 8)

COME TO
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 BEN GITLOW, Chairman.
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