

THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA.

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BY JANET JAGAN, M.H.A.

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"We, the colonial peoples under British domination, are obliged to sell at low prices and to buy at high prices. Thus wages never cover the cost of living.

Our women are hoping for a future granting them equal rights and the possibility to develop their talent, as do the Women of Eastern Europe. We are part of the Peace Movement, since we are aware of the fact that war threatens not only our people but all of civilization. Help us to win freedom for all the oppressed colonial peoples."

(Extract of Speech made by Mrs. Janet Jagan from British Guiana, at the World Congress of Women, Copenhagen, June, 1953.)

On the invitation of the Women's Democratic Federation of the Rumania People's Republic, myself and nine other delegates to the World Congress of Women in Copenhagen have been invited to visit their country. The nine women include the famous Elisa Branco of Brazil, holder of the Stalin Peace award for outstanding work, two women leaders of Cuba, two from Egypt, two from Switzerland and two from the British West Indies.

Today we visited a tobacco factory producing 650,000 cigarettes daily and employing some 800 workers, the majority being women. There I saw the people at work in large airy rooms with special ventilation. The basic wages are established by the government in consultation with the workers through their trade unions. Every worker, however, can receive far above the basic (which is quite adequate) depending on the quality and quantity of his production. There are Canteens on the compound where wholesome lunches can be purchased at extremely low prices. I visited a lovely creche and a day nursery where mothers leave their children while working. For the little babies there were large bright rooms equipped with

were play rooms with small size furniture and for the slightly older children there were rooms with toys, a marionette stage, and bathrooms with wash basins at the convenient height.

Also for the workers of the same factory there was a small well equipped hospital, which is just for workers who are not very sick, a modern dental surgery providing free dentistry of all types for all the workers aside from the medical clinic.

The tobacco factory workers of Bucharest sent their warm greetings to the tobacco factory workers of British Guiana and expressed their desire that the bonds of friendship be strengthened between all workers in the struggle for world peace.

Later in the day a Secretary of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Rumanian People's Republic interviewed us and gave full answers to many questions asked. She pointed out that there was a fundamental difference in the functions of trade unions existing in capitalist countries and those in the socialist countries. In the capitalist countries the unions were part of the class struggle of the workers seeking better working conditions and wages from their employers. In the

as the class struggle no longer existed and since it was no longer necessary for workers to force better wages from their employers. Production was socialised. Here, therefore, the trade unions had the job of improving the social benefits for for workers such as medical care, creches, cultural activities. Further they sought to increase production in order to fulfil the country's five year plan which would benefit all workers and would also assist in lowering prices. The unions also have the task of seeing that all the workers receive all the benefits granted to them constitutionally. One of the most important functions of the trade unions is to participate in the negotiations for "collective contracts" which is the contract concerning production and social benefits drawn up between the factory and the workers.

The Central Council of Trade Unions take care of the high grant by the Government for Social Insurance. It also arranges for trade union schools and various forms of workers education, and arranges for resorts for workers when they receive their annual holiday with pay. There is no space to mention all the benefits workers in Romania receive as compared to our workers, but would mention that for overtime (more than 8 hours of work per day) a worker receives tin and one-half for the first two hours and double time for overtime over the first two hours. Workers are pensioned at the age of 50 for women and years for men.

There are many lessons can learn from the great strid

Apprenticeship In Rumania

By Janet Jagan

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During my three weeks' visit to the People's Republic of Rumania, which for the short period of five years has been a socialist state, I had the opportunity of visiting the "Vocational Metallurgical School Centre" in Stalin City. In this beautiful, modern school compound just out-side of Stalin City, I saw 1,500 young people learning trades. They were housed in up-to-date dormitories and ate at hygienic dining halls at the expense of the state. Here, in only two years time, the youths study theory and gain practical experience in the well equipped machine shops and classrooms.

In the first year, for example, they study their own language, physics, mathematics, political education and technical design along with the actual learning of the trade. After two years, their apprenticeship is completed and they gain one month's experience in a factory before becoming full fledged tradesmen. They start with a wage on the same level as all skilled workmen. For those who wish to study more, night school is available. For those whose ability is ever greater, the university is open-free and the ambitious youth has every opportunity of becoming a qualified engineer.

When compared to British Guiana standards, one finds the difference shocking. In this country, young men apprentice for several years at abominable wages. I know of one enterprise which pays apprentices four shillings a week. Complete knowledge and experience in the trade is deliberately withheld from the apprentice lest he learn too quick and go out to earn a living. There is no organised method of teaching and the youth is generally used

and must do odd jobs at the employers' home.

We look forward to the day when our youth can face the future with hope, well equipped with the knowledge and experience to earn a decent living and lead a happy life.

BENEFITS OF GENERAL ELECTIONS,

APRIL, 1953.

By Gayford Allen.

In my opinion the General Elections of 1953, have brought two major benefits to British Guiana. In the first place they served to advertise the country abroad.

Now, before April 27, 1953, people in foreign countries, and even certain parts of the United Kingdom, knew little or nothing about British Guiana. But today British Guiana is known in nearly every part of the habitable globe. Thanks to the People's Progressive Party for this. Many of our West Indian neighbours are now looking to us for example.

In the second place the Elections have taught the rich to respect the poor, because on them they depend. For we realise today that no enterprise, whether social, economical, moral or intellectual could prosper, if the welfare of the masses is disregarded. Hence many foreigners and all Progressive Guianese should look forward to the day when British Guiana will be an independent state, free from outside authority, and within which Peace, Progress, and Prosperity shall be ever present.

Let us congratulate the P.P.P. for the step which they have taken, and we hope that under their banner we shall have a happier Guiana. May God bless the P.P.P. and always give them courage to defend our course.

Dr. ... of Sweden)
But in many countries, is limited by national laws and local regulations and often well by the employers who their own values concern the employment of women. frequently, legally or not, there is discrimination against married women.
One of the reasons why women do mainly unskilled and paid work is that in many countries they have difficulties obtaining professional training and qualifications and their means of getting general education are limited. It is clear that the question of education affects women from their childhood and is of great importance with regard to their participation in the political, economic and social life.

ENJOY FULL RIGHTS.

In the new People's Democracies women take an active part in government administration. They are widely represented in the local and central government bodies. The full implementation of their rights is guaranteed to women by creating the necessary conditions of protection of mother and child, the wide network of facilities for children, constant opportunities for education, professional training and qualifications for women, heightening the cultural level.
Overturning the theories of the inferiority of women and about 'women's place' in the home, the lives of women in the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and other European countries, that because they enjoy rights they are able to make considerable contribution to the happiness of their homes