

## Women of All Classes Feel Strike

Textile Labor Disturbance Affects Workers and Fabric Buyers.

BY ELEANOR GUNN  
Times Special Writer

LABOR news usually is regarded by women as dull reading, but, believe me, it is no longer dull. Strike news may not have much reader appeal to women, but this great textile strike, which affects more women directly and indirectly than any other strike in history, strikes home. And that's where woman's heart is, whether she is a mill worker or a millionaire.

Woman's part is no longer passive. In the great strike of today and in many to come she plays an active part. She is a co-worker, a striker in her own right, not merely an innocent victim dragged into the fray at the heels of her militant husband.

Men, confident that the children would be cared for some way, somehow, by women, were free to hurl themselves into the broader issues. They marched on to achievement or destruction, unhampered by much personal concern. But women are geared differently. They are incapable of any burning interest in which there is no personal element.

Justice, in a broad, impersonal sense, leaves women cold. They can be galvanized into action only by something which touches them personally or greatly affects those for whom they care.

Affects Consumers.

Even the women spectators of this great tragedy which touches them only as an obstacle in the path of obtaining the purple and fine linen which it pleases them to wear are affected vitally. The chances are that these women will register only annoyance not because they are callous to the sufferings of their less fortunate sisters but because they are entirely ignorant of the conditions under which they work—conditions which, rightly or wrongly, have brought about this catastrophe.

How many women have ever seen the inside of a cotton mill, or any other kind for that matter? How many have the slightest conception of how these workers live or work? How many of any of us, in short, have the slightest idea of what the other side of the world lives?

Women, by and large, are not given to espousing causes in which they have no personal concern. But in no strike, save that which affects food, are women more vitally concerned than with this textile strike, which touches women more closely than any other strike. Not only the workers in the mills but these women who are the final consumers of the fabrics on which they labor are affected.

Courage to Strike Amazes

The great textile mills throughout New England and the south employ hundreds of thousands of women. Were they content to let well enough alone or were they too impelled by their desires to hurl themselves against the opposing forces? Was the vision of bread and honey to come enough to make them loosen their hold on the crust they clutched in order to grasp at a shadow?

If so women have changed greatly with the march of events. Heretofore they have shown a curious apathy toward the sufferings of the world at large and an intense, even fierce, interest in the comfort and welfare of the family group.

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