DOORS WERE Locked, SAY RESCued GIRLS

Workers Huddled Against Them as Fire Spread, According to Strike Leader.

MASS MEETING OF PROTEST

Arranged by Women's Trade Union League—Triangle Employees Underpaid, Miss Dreiler Charges.

Speaking to delegates from twenty philanthropic organizations and settlement workers, who met yesterday in the boardrooms of the Women's Trade Union League to plan a mass meeting to discuss problems suggested by the Triangle Shirtwaist Strike, Miss O'Flaherty, a leader in the strike in the company's plant last year, declared that 'the women's strike is coming,' and her evidence to this effect, the doors on the eighth and ninth floors of the building were locked fast Saturday afternoon.

"We have just come from a luncheon we prepared for the unfortunate girls who escaped," Miss O'Flaherty declared. "They all told me one thing—that the doors were not opened for no reason. That is what they have been going around the families of those employed in every family they tell me the same story.

"Doors have been shut and thrown to us. I assure you it is not strange to the public who work there while they work in nearly every factory. We cannot understand why, however, we were not warned. The strike in the Triangle plant, and later saw it grow into the revolt of the entire trade.

"And since that strike the rule about keeping the doors locked has been enforced more strictly than ever. It had an economic basis and it was to the advantage of the employer in more ways than one.

"In the first place, employers do not trust their help. In many factories they see clerks enter and quite often don't carry off the shirtswaists they have made.

Planned to Prevent Turfiness.

"To enforce rules regarding tardiness the idea of locking the doors was first inaugurated when it was found that women understood they could not get into the factories in the morning before the doors were opening. So the workers are warned to keep the doors locked. It was when they were given another protection, for it was when pressed. I have heard the number huddled against the locked doors, and the fact those who are huddled there with defensiveness. But they did say that they were not all huddled against the locked doors, and the other girls say the same thing.

The meeting Miss O'Flaherty addressed was arranged by the Women's Trade Union League, which was arrested in the court this morning of the Triangle Waist Company as a breach of the law in the duty which they were performing. The committee plans to make another big strike among the dead mass who had passed with her through the strike experience.

"The worst of all the firms we had to deal with was that of Harris & Blank." Miss Dreiler declared. "When both sides had been worn by the long struggle, and it seemed they could get together, Mr. Blank came to our representatives and said he would not sign any order. He said he would not sign any order because he didn't want to. Mr. Blank told this to the girls and let the girls go back he would see that the improvement were made and that every sanitary regulation was complied with.

"His words were reassuring. We thought he had signed the justice our demands for decent working conditions. The highest man in the business, controlling factories in Newark and Phila. were here in New York. We trusted him, and let our girls go.

"And then we learned that each experienced girl was required to test six new girls there they were seated near the machine to see their work. The union girls were put exclusively on the eighth floor. After others had been instructed to do their work, and thus it is that there are no more employers other than Jews who meet their demands. The employer up to the time of the strike adjustment, were nearly all Jewish.

Says Girls Were Underpaid.

Miss Dreiler recounted the manner in which she went into the place, and then received apologies from the police when her identity became known. She /knew/ two of the men who had taken her by custody for not telling him who she was. So that he could not hold them that was said that in every union shop the girls were presented a dozen for working for which the girls in the Triangle shop got 20 cents a dozen for working. This was because of this low rate that the union girls are employed to work there and employees had left off work in nearly all the factories. The strike that is being played is the newly arrived and unexperienced, how could they be played if the union were to play a strike. Miss O'Flaherty, a field worker for the league, told of her experiences trying to get the Mayoral and the Building Department to take action against employers, following the Newark disaster.

We found the strike to be scattered all through the City Government," she said, "the Building Department advised us to the Fire Department, and the Fire Department referred us to the Mayor. We were told there was no enforcement, so we went to the Grocer. Told him how anxious he was to gain complete control. I think we are as a committee, and we were given to understand that the Mayor and the Building Department were inclined to do just that which the mayor was capable of doing, because the city had been struck by death lists that the improper facilities and conditions were.

The Resolutions.

Benjamin C. Marsh, of the Mayor's Committee on Congestion of Population, Williams College, and member of the Women's Trade Union, and others spoke in favor of the resolutions which were adopted, and which read:

Whereas, So few following the frightful accidents of the past week, and in spite of the solemn warning to our citizens by experience, that conditions were as bad, or worse, here in the city, as they were in the meatless help of our people, the working man and his family and the dependent upon him; and

Whereas, It is evident that there has been negligence on the part of both officers and employees in the enforcement of the laws and regulations, and that such neglect is manifest abuse of power arising from the worst depravity; and

Whereas, Yet deeper its causes, such as the condition of industrial warfare, the desire to exact and enforce compulsory inspection, the inexorable delay after an accident, the multitude of officers, the money makers, their police, the indifference, blindness, and prejudice of the city and state authorities, and the lack of all safeguards provided by the law; and

Whereas, There is no question that the city and state are responsible and that such neglect is inexcusable; and

Resolved, That we call upon the police and fire departments to account all who are responsible for such negligence and neglect, and to promptly to their duty, in accordance with the laws and regulations; and
did not neglect to prevent such negligence and neglect; and

be it resolved, That we call upon the whole police and fire departments to account all who are responsible for such negligence and neglect, and to promptly to their duty, in accordance with the laws and regulations; and
did not neglect to prevent such negligence and neglect; and