

Christian Science Monitor, April 8, 1944

Call for women to join CIO drives. CIO supports the right of women to work.

VPL, SFU

Equal Pay and Children's Allowances, Food For Thought, Shapiro, Pauline February, 1943.

History of mobilization of women. When women came into labour force there was labour discontent (from male unionists). Strike in May 1940 by the Amalgamated Engineering Union established equal pay. Same social pattern in USA and Canada. Men support equal pay not because they see elementary justice but to protect own wage levels. Windsor Ford plant walkout in Nov. 1942 forced Ottawa to implement equal pay principle it had adopted Sept. 8, 1942. Women still earn 66% of male wage. Figures in Labour Gazette. Low wages a result of exploitation; rationale? women's output as good as men's: creates defensiveness so men support lower wages; women kept in lower categories (no equal work). Need equal pay: women support families too: pay according to need.

VPL

The Fisherman, 1939 - 1945.

Coverage includes: 1939: profile of Betty Lowman, halibut fisherwoman; 1st aide classes for women's auxiliary; women consumers back up unions; poem: life of fisherman's wife.

1940: Editorial on women's unemployment; AFL suspensions affect unions; women arrive on labour market because of war mobilization, causes heightened unemployment; cannery struggles; women in coal-fields; women oppose war.

1941: Wage controls harm families; UFFU organizes the canneries; May Day theme: organize the unorganized; organize all workers in fishing industry: applies to racial groups; women leave domestic service for factory employment; Fish Cannery and Reduction Plant Union: women and Native workers express interest.

1942: Low wages for teachers protested; women needed in industries including canneries; union prefers to negotiate for male cannery workers (steady employees) as result of company position, although women and temporary men signed up: prepared to eliminate those categories; at Steveston all classes of workers demand unionization although meeting for steady men only advertised: union decides to sign all, includes position on equal pay for equal work; women in industrial jobs struggle for day nurseries; temporary agreements in some industries keep women out of production since companies hiring women for office work but placing them in industry at reduced rates.