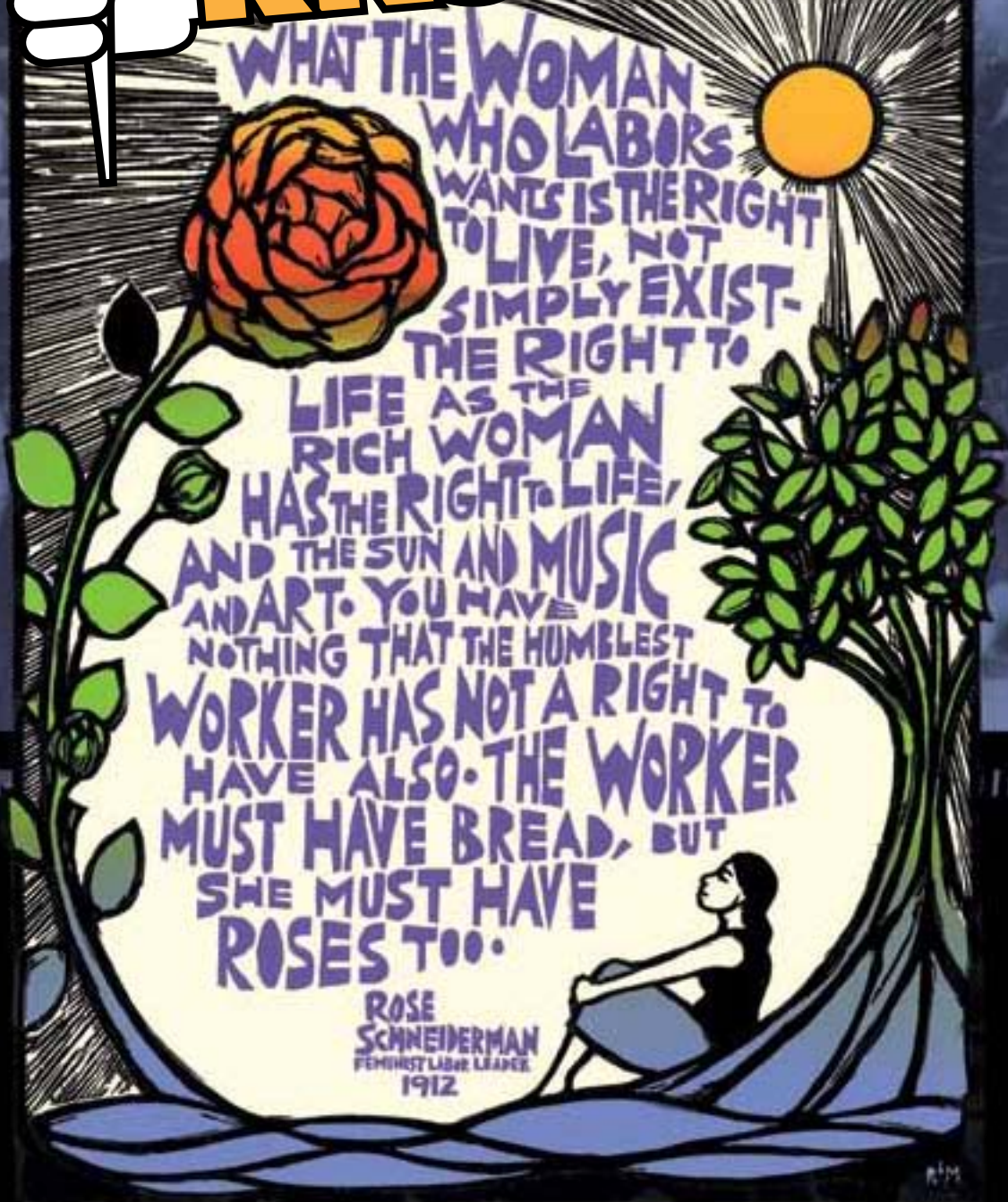


MAY 2010 WORKS FESTIVAL



CELEBRATING LABOUR & THE ARTS
www.mayworks.org

For further information contact the Workers Organizing Resource Centre 947-2220

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From Churchill to Emerson, over 32,000 MGEU members are there every day to keep our province going and growing.

The MGEU is pleased to support MayWorks 2010.



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ICON LEGEND





SCARBOROUGH WAR PLANT WWII

WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S MAYWORKS FESTIVAL

MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts is a multi-disciplinary festival that focuses on working class themes. It is held in Winnipeg every year throughout the month of May to honour and promote the many positive contributions of unions and working people in general.

Inspired by events surrounding the anniversary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, MayWorks focuses on the art produced both by artists (with their depiction of working class life) and by workers with their own interpretation of their lives and struggles.

The role of women in the landmark social and political struggles of the modern era as well as the daily struggles they wage against unjust conditions has earned a particular place in artistic expression. In honour of this fact the theme of MayWorks 2010 is Bread and Roses.

The slogan Bread and Roses originated in a poem of that name by James Oppenheim that was published in December 1911. The poem celebrates the struggle of women workers and their hopes to establish a social order based on the equality of all. One month later the poem became synonymous with the large and bloody strike of women textile workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts. From there the poem has been passed down as one of the key cultural pieces of social protest and the term Bread and Roses has become an expression recognizing the importance of social protest in art.

Thus, it is fitting that this is the theme for MayWorks 2010 as we recognize the courage and resolve of women everywhere to change the world.

Whatever your interest, we are sure you will enjoy the 2010 edition of MayWorks.

Glenn Michalchuk, MayWorks President

2010 EVENT LISTING

ALL **MONTH LONG**



AUDIO RESISTANCE

5-6 PM CKUW 95.9 FM

During the month of May, MayWorks is pleased to continue its collaboration with CKUW. Tune in to Black Mask Radio every Wednesday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on CKUW 95.9 FM for reports and interviews about MayWorks events.

► For more info, contact CKUW at 786-9782

WEDNESDAY **APRIL 28**



DAY OF MOURNING

10 AM Canadian Union of Public Employees memorial ceremony, City Hall, 510 Main Street

11:45 AM Leaders Walk with Safe Workers of Tomorrow Union Centre, 275 Broadway

6 PM Manitoba Federation of Labour, Candlelight Vigil, Union Centre, 275 Broadway, Room 2C

Performances by Hugo Torres-Cereceda and Florence Marquez.

► For more info, contact the Manitoba Federation of Labour at 947-1400

FRIDAY **APRIL 30**



PHOTO EXHIBIT: IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Millennium Library

For the entire month of May, view the historical photos depicting the struggles of women at the turn of the century to more recent times. This exhibit will feature some of our more prominent female leaders in the struggle for justice and dignity for women.

► For more info, contact Workers Organizing Resource Centre 947-2220

SATURDAY **MAY 1**



ANNUAL WINNIPEG LABOUR COUNCIL MAY DAY MARCH

12:30 PM Assemble at City Hall, 510 Main Street

Equal rights, Equal opportunities, Progress for all. Join us to celebrate International Workers' Day.

► For more info, contact the Winnipeg Labour Council at 942-0522

SATURDAY **MAY 1**



TELETHON

3 PM Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse, 91 Albert Street

One of Winnipeg's best-known worker co-op's and centre for progressive political and cultural activity, hosts a 24 hour telethon for the A-Zone Building before a live audience with simultaneous international broadcast, featuring non-stop entertainment through the evening and night.

► For more info, contact Mondragon at 946-5241

SUNDAY **MAY 2**



SPECIAL VEGAN BRUNCH HOSTED BY A.B.C.

11 AM - 2 PM Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse, 91 Albert Street

AN ANARCHIST LOOKS AT LIFE

2 PM Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse, 91 Albert Street

A reprise of the Emma Goldman speech, "An Anarchist Looks at Life" performed, in costume, by the actress, Sharon Bajer.

► For more info, contact Mondragon at 946-5241



BULLET CANTING, SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO, 1942 WWII



MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, WWII

SUNDAY **MAY 2****MAY DAY BANQUET**

6 PM Fort Garry Hotel, 222 Broadway
Cocktails at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM

Dinner and a political/cultural programme and dance. Cash bar.

- ▶ Tickets \$25
- ▶ For reservations and tickets, contact Ken at 479-8089

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY **MAY 4 & 5****FILM SCREENING:
CLUB NATIVE BY TRACEY DEER**

7 PM The WFG's Cinematheque, 100 Arthur Street

Club Native is a candid and deeply moving look at the pain, confusion and frustration suffered by many First Nations people as they struggle for the most important right of all; the right to belong. In *Club Native*, filmmaker Tracey Deer uses Kahnawake, her hometown, as a lens to probe deeply into the history and contemporary reality of Aboriginal identity. Following the stories of four women, she reveals the exclusionary attitudes that divide the community and many others like it across Canada.

- ▶ For more info, contact Cinematheque at 925-3457

SATURDAY **MAY 8****FESTIVAL OF MANDOLINS**

8 PM Ukrainian Labour Temple, 591 Pritchard Avenue

Featuring the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, the Praetorius Mandolin Ensemble and guest artists Rollin Penner and the Traveling Medicine Show.

- ▶ Tickets \$15
- ▶ For more info, contact Brent Stearns at 488-1008

SATURDAY **MAY 8****WINNIPEG LABOUR CHOIR PRESENTS:
THE BEST OF THE LEFT: FROM 1994 TO 2009**

7 PM Gas Station Theatre, 445 River Ave.
Performance at 7:30 PM

Featuring: Karen Dana and Harry Havey, Patrick McGuire, Michael Desautels, Joseph and Michael Warbanski

- ▶ Free Admission
- ▶ For more info and free tickets, call 774-8573

SUNDAY **MAY 9****GENERAL STRIKE BUS TOUR &
SOKOLOWSKI MEMORIAL SERVICE**

1 PM Union Centre, 275 Broadway

Join our tour guides on a chartered bus as they share details about the life of Mike Sokolowski, the Ukrainian immigrant killed during the culmination of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike on "Bloody Saturday", June 15th, as well as many other sites of interest that have direct connections to that tumultuous time. The tour begins at the Union Centre and makes its way to the Vulcan Iron Works where it all began. You will have a chance to see and feel Hell's Alley where many of the marchers were beaten on that fateful day. You will also bear witness to a memorial graveside service for Mike Sokolowski at Brookside Cemetery before returning to the Union Centre.

- ▶ Tickets \$10 (limited seating, buy early)
- ▶ Tickets available at the Workers' Organizing Resource Centre, Mezzanine-280 Smith Street, 947-2220 or at Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse, 91 Albert Street, 946-5241

FRIDAY **MAY 14****AN EVENING WITH CUBA**

7 PM Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse,
91 Albert Street

Join us for an evening of information on the current situation in Cuba and a celebration of Cuban culture organized by the Manitoba-Cuba solidarity committee.

The program includes short presentations on this year's Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade, the Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan, and an update on the recent political and economic developments in Cuba.

Cuban and other progressive songs performed by Hugo Torres-Cereceda, Grupo Amistad with Victor Bustamente, and a presentation by a group of young, local Cuban children.

Sample some of the Cuban specialties, on the menu for this evening only, such as Cuban soup and conгри.

- ▶ Free admission, but we will pass the hat for contributions towards both the Brigade and the Caravan.
- ▶ For further info, call Diane at 783-9380 or e-mail: dizack@shaw.ca

SUNDAY **MAY 16****SPRING CONCERT**

2 PM Ukrainian Labour Temple, 591 Pritchard Avenue

AUUC School of Folk Dance, Yunist Dancers and other AUUC performing groups.

- ▶ For additional info, call Brent Stearns at 488-1008



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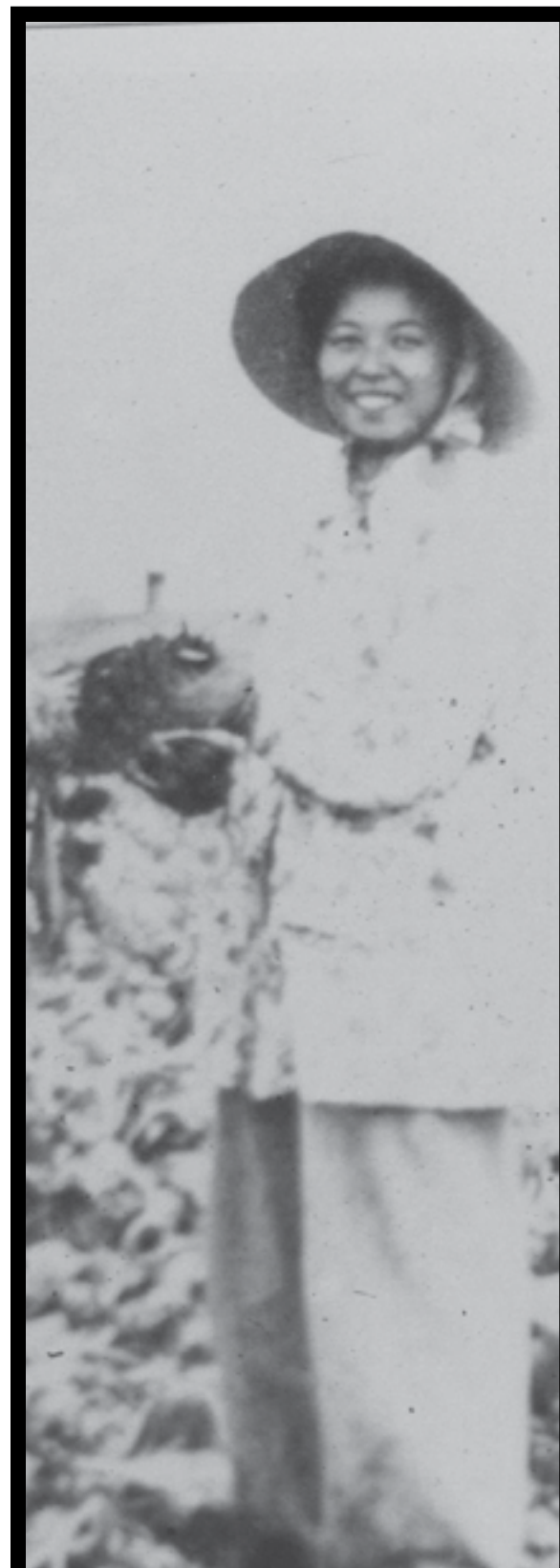
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SUGAR BEET WORKERS, LETHBRIDGE WWII

WEDNESDAY **MAY 19****BREAD AND ROSES TONIGHT**

7 PM Aqua Books, 247 Garry Street

New and selected poetry by Ron Romanowski and John Baillie.

Songs of bread and roses by Liliana Romanowski, Featuring Ferruccio Moscarda on guitar.

- ▶ Free admission
- ▶ For more info, call Ron at 667-6802

SATURDAY & SUNDAY **MAY 29 & 30****MIKE'S BLOODY SATURDAY WALKING TOUR**

12 & 3 PM City Hall Courtyard, 510 Main Street

Join award-winning composer/playwright Danny Schur (*Strike!-The Musical*) as he shares the fascinating and contradictory details of the last hours of Mike Sokolowski, the Ukrainian immigrant killed on "Bloody Saturday" during the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

- ▶ Duration, 2 hrs
- ▶ Free admission, but pre-registration is required.
- ▶ Please call 227-1167 to reserve your spot. (maximum 40 people per tour)

SATURDAY **MAY 29****WINNIPEG LABOUR COUNCIL
MAYWORKS PICNIC 2010**

12 - 4 PM Freight House Park, Isabel St. and Ross Ave.

A fun-filled afternoon with free hotdogs and orange drink, inflatable play stations, face painting, a clown and a free bicycle draw.

- ▶ For more info call the Winnipeg Labour Council at 942-0522 or email: info@winnipeglabour.ca

BREAD AND ROSES:

THE STRIKE LED AND WON BY WOMEN

By **LYN NEELEY**

IN WORKERS WORLD, 29 JAN. 1998

Jan. 12 was the anniversary of the start of the 1912 Bread and Roses strike—one of the most significant struggles in the history of the U.S. working class—in Lawrence, Mass.

A new state law had reduced the work week from 56 to 54 hours. A small gain for workers? Sounds like it. But of course the bosses found a way to gain the advantage.

They speeded up the looms and cut the average measly wage of \$6 a week—a last straw for workers living on the edge of starvation.

When the wage cut was announced, workers shouted: "Short pay! Short pay!" Thousands of women and men started a spontaneous strike that rippled through two dozen textile factories in Lawrence.

Some 23,000 people left the mills and poured into the streets.

Immediately the National Guard was called out, along with 22 militia companies and 50 thugs disguised as strikers. They overturned trolley cars, smashed windows, assaulted people and planted dynamite near the strike headquarters.

But even quicker on the scene was Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, a 21-year-old organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World—the Wobblies. Flynn, Big Bill Haywood and other IWW leaders moved in to help organize the strike.

AN EARLY DEATH

Lawrence was founded in 1845 as a textile city. By the turn of the century, advanced technology had enabled the owners to bring in lower-paid workers and force the skilled workers out.

In 1905 the American Woolen Company built the world's biggest textile plant in Lawrence, hiring Arab, Russian and East European immigrants. By 1912, people of 25 different nationalities lived within a one-mile radius of the mill.

They lived in crowded company-owned tenements. Eight to 10 people from different families shared one living space. Whole families—including children under 14 years old—worked in the mills.

The mills were hot and humid. The work was fast paced, with high accident rates.

Bosses made ethnic slurs. They sexually harassed the women.

Workers froze in the winter because they couldn't afford the clothes they produced. Rickets were common among children for lack of milk. Nearly half died before they were 6 years old.

Over one-third of the mill workers died before age 25, mostly from tuberculosis and other respiratory illnesses.

PROTESTING IN 25 LANGUAGES

In 1912, the American Federation of Labor was a grouping of weak craft unions, made up of white men organized by trade. The AFL refused to organize Black workers. Until 1918, the federation barred women from membership—even



UKRAINIAN WOMEN REAPING WITH SICKLES, 1910



INTERNATIONAL WOODWORKERS STRIKE, B.C., 1952

in an industry like textiles with twice as many female workers as male.

The AFL opposed the Lawrence strike, calling it revolutionary and anarchistic.

The IWW, in contrast, was formed by socialists like Eugene Debs. They called for industry-wide unions and even one big union for the whole country. The IWW emphasized unity and solidarity.

The Lawrence strike broke new ground in two ways. Women led it. And there was a conscious effort to unite workers of all nationalities.

Every union meeting was translated into 25 different languages.

There were four demands: a 15-percent wage increase, a 54-hour work week, double pay for overtime, and rehiring of all strikers without discrimination.

But the workers saw the strike as really a broader struggle. They wanted to fight for socialism.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn had grown up poor in New England mill towns. She watched starving mill workers

leave before daylight and return after dark. She was familiar with the rats, cockroaches, lice and disease that plagued their families.

The strikers had a strong spirit of class struggle. They sang, put on shows, dances, debates and parades.

The Lawrence strikers are remembered for inventing the moving picket line. Police had been arresting them for loitering—so they linked arms and formed a moving human chain that wove around the mills 24 hours a day, preventing scabs from getting in.

Flynn led meetings about the special oppression facing women and immigrants. Women led the picket lines and were better at intimidating scabs.

Cops threw the women in jail but they refused to pay the fines. As soon as they were released they returned to the picket lines.

One freezing morning, cops drenched the strikers with fire hoses. The women caught a cop on a bridge, stripped off his uniform and nearly succeeded in

throwing him into the icy river. One lawyer commented, "One policeman can handle 10 men, while it takes 10 police to handle one woman."

The children grew weak as the strike continued into February and March. Flynn gathered food and set up soup kitchens.

Arrangements were made for hundreds of children to be sent to the homes of socialists in other cities for the duration of the strike. This drew national and international publicity, and donations began to pour in.

The cops responded by attacking women and children at the train station so the children couldn't leave. Cops clubbed them, threw them into a heap and dragged them into military trucks, clubbing them again if they cried out.

They beat one pregnant woman so hard she had a miscarriage. That was the turning point. The national and international outcry forced Congress to open an investigation. The pressure on the bosses built.

THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE

On March 14, the strikers won a 25-percent raise for the lowest-paid workers and smaller increases for higher-paid workers, time-and-a-quarter pay for overtime, and no discrimination against strikers.

The workers celebrated their victory by singing "The International," the communist anthem.

The IWW kept the strike committee going to fight for the release of Ettor and Giovanitti, leaders who had been framed soon after the walkout began. They were charged with the death of a woman whom 19 witnesses said was shot by a soldier.

The strike victory resulted in easily won wage increases in mill towns throughout New England. But once the Lawrence struggle ended and the IWW left town, the bosses stabbed the workers in the back. They instigated a 50-percent speed-up in the mills.

The Catholic Church joined the bosses in a campaign to discredit the IWW and harass union members. By the fall of 1913, IWW membership in Lawrence had fallen to 700.

An economic recession in 1913-1914 brought wage cuts and unemployment to the mill workers.

Later, after the Russian Revolution, the Wobblies faded from the scene. The IWW's best, including Flynn, left to form the Communist Party, while others turned toward anarchism.

However, the Lawrence strike had shown that low-paid, oppressed workers of diverse nationalities could unite, organize and wage a powerful struggle to win concessions from the bosses. It stands as a shining example of how to build multinational, anti-racist unity with women in the lead.

Today, labor is turning toward organizing these same groups—low-wage workers, women, immigrants. The struggle to

organize workfare workers is in the tradition of the Lawrence strike.

One reporter wrote of the Lawrence strike: "It was the spirit of the workers that seemed dangerous. ... They were always marching and singing.

"The gray, tired crowds, ebbing and flowing perpetually into the mills, had awakened and opened their mouths to sing, the different nationalities all speaking one language when they sang together."

The strikers wanted not only decent pay, but a chance to enjoy the good things of life. They carried signs saying, "We want bread and roses too!"

And they sang: "As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days. The rising of the women means the rising of the [human] race.

"No more the drudge and idler, 10 that toil where one reposes—but a sharing of life's glories: Bread and roses! Bread and roses!"



CUPE HEALTH CARE WORKERS, ALBERTA, 1970S

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



TENDING SPINNING MACHINE, VERDUN, 1929

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WE BRING THE GREATER DAYS.
THE RISING OF THE WOMEN MEANS
THE RISING OF THE [HUMAN] RACE.**

**NO MORE THE DRUDGE AND IDLER,
TEN THAT TOIL WHERE ONE REPOSES—
BUT A SHARING OF LIFE'S GLORIES:
BREAD AND ROSES! BREAD AND ROSES!**

FROM *BREAD AND ROSES*, POEM BY JAMES OPPENHEIM, 1911



2010 FESTIVAL

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