



MRS. SARA CONBOY

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WOMAN ORGANIZER COMES FROM GREAT SOUTHERN STRIKE

Sara Conboy, Striking Figure in Labor Convention, Has 59 Little Girls Named After Her.

Down around Lawrence, Mass., are 59 little girls named after Mrs. Sara A. Conboy, general organizer of the United Textile Workers of America, who is attending the big American Federation of Labor convention in this city.

Mrs. Conboy is in town to advertise the big strike of textile workers in the Fulton Cotton Mills, Atlanta, Ga., which has been in progress since May 1. If there is repetition in history, it is assured many little Southern girls yet to be born in the tent colony of the strikers will be named after this fighting organizer, who withal, is as tender with the "white slaves of the mills," as she calls them, as their own mothers are.

Sara Conboy is a name to conjure with wherever the textile industry extends. Sara Conboy is to the textile workers of the country what Mother Jones is to the American labor movement.

Inspiration is in her work. She knows what the inside of a textile mill looks like. Many years of her life she spent beside the whirring loom watching the havoc of the machines upon the workers.

She was born in Boston. Early she became a member of "the union." She took to its propaganda like the proverbial duck to the proverbial water. She occupied almost every office the union had to give until she was called into the international field as a general organizer years ago with the American Federation of Labor paying her salary—that's what they thought of the character and ability of Sara Conboy, as everybody in the labor world calls her.

President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, has promised to let her address the convention on the subject nearest her heart—the strike of her beloved men, women and children in the cotton mills of the South.

After her address the strike will assume a national interest because of her ability to tell the story, and the fact that the revolt is the first big textile strike in the history of the South.

This remarkable woman sat for an hour in the Hanover Hotel with her dinner waiting to tell the story of her "kiddies of the mills."

Deep emotion was in her voice, her eyes were misty as she told of their gray, colorless lives. In powerful language she spoke of the terrible consequences because of confining drudgery in the big industry.

One example she gave is that of 5-year-old Oliver Lee, of Atlanta, Ga., a blind boy, whose affliction is directly traceable to the toll his mother underwent in the mill. The story of 7-year-old Esther May Smith, who earned 30 cents a week made her hiss her condemnation forth, but when she told of how little Milt Nunnally, a 10-year-old worker, entered her office one day and placed his arms around her saying, "Mrs. Conboy, I love you," the lines in her face softened and she quietly murmured:

"Today we can control with love, but tomorrow hell with all its imps of hate may be in the saddle."

Mrs. Conboy will be a conspicuous figure in the big labor parade Friday night with the textile workers of this city.

During and after the convention sessions, she will make a campaign throughout the town among the various unions to obtain aid for the "tent colony" of textile strikers in the Sunny South. There are many interesting women at this convention, but none who grips more strongly than the "Divine Sara of the Mills."