

120,000 PAY TRIBUTE TO THE FIRE VICTIMS

**Army of Workers, Most of Them
Women, March Through the
Downpour of Rain.**

THRONGS ALONG THE LINE

**Leaders in the Suffrage Movement,
Undismayed by the Weather, Join
in the Line of March.**

Rose Schneiderman, the slip of a girl whose eloquence stirred the Metropolitan Opera House mass meeting on Sunday, brought tears to the eyes of thousands yesterday as they stood along Fifth Avenue in a drifting rain, watching the funeral parade for the shirtwaist workers who perished in the Washington Place fire.

Little Miss Schneiderman had made many speeches since the Asch Building fire; workers everywhere had become acquainted with her. Hatless and without raincoat she tried to trudge along in the dripping procession, near its head. But long before it had reached its uptown destination at Thirty-fifth Street her feet began to falter.

Mary Dreier, President of the Women's Trade Union League, noticed that the girl was lagging behind her comrades in a line of eight, and took hold of her arm. Helen Marot, Secretary of the league, grasped her by the other arm, and the three, who more than any others have been in the limelight since the Ash Building fire, trudged on. None had umbrellas, and only one a raincoat. In front of them was a platoon of police, a funeral car laden with floral wreaths, with six white horses to draw it, and a score of fire survivors, one of whom carried a waistmakers' banner.

The crowds, which numbered, the police estimated, about 400,000, while a third of that number were in the line of march, everywhere recognized the girl who was being helped along. Her name ran from lip to lip along the curb lines. Men pressed close to catch a glimpse of her, and among the women, who outnumbered the men on the sidewalks as they did in the line of march, there were few dry eyes.

The parade, declared by the leaders to be the largest demonstration ever made here by working people, practically emptied the downtown and Brooklyn lofts and factories. Its numbers were at first largely underestimated, as it was thought the rain would keep most of the paraders away. But when, an hour later than the scheduled time for starting, a squad of traffic policemen headed into Washington Square from the south side, and another squad took its place on the northern edge, with a line of drenched paraders stretching out behind in both directions, estimators began to revise their figures. From 10,000, at which they started, they raised the figures to 100,000, and then to 120,000.

Difficulties of getting through crowded downtown streets and passing fire lines drawn about a burning building had detained the downtown section, which worked its way up to Washington Square from Rutgers Square, arriving at 3 o'clock instead of 2 as planned. Similar troubles had delayed the uptown section which had formed at Fourth Avenue and Twenty-second Street. Once in Washington Square, the consolidated columns began the march up Fifth Avenue at 3:40 o'clock, and it required four hours after the first file of eight had left for the last file to pass under the Washington Arch.

There were no propagandist banners and no bands. The intention of the leaders to make the occasion one for the expression of the working people's grief was complied with, but only by the rigid censorship of banners which some had brought to the line of procession. The National colors, draped in mourning, and union banners similarly draped, marked the headquarters of the various divisions. Girls, where the unions were composed of women, carried their banners throughout the line of march, and then would not admit that they were exhausted. On their hats and around their arms many wore bands of black ribbon.

At Thirty-fifth Street the parade turned into Fourth Avenue and then continued to Madison Square, where they dispersed, every parader thoroughly drenched by the drifting rain and mist.

While the parade was in progress a funeral procession, consisting of eight black hearses, with white trimmings, carrying the bodies of six unidentified women and a man, left the Morgue, at the foot of East Twenty-sixth Street. Thousands of people who had been attracted by the funeral notice watched the procession on its way to the Twenty-third Street ferries, and thousands more from Brownsville lined the streets through which the procession passed from the Brooklyn ferry slip to the Cypress Hills Cemetery.

Inspector Sweeney, from Brooklyn, and a force of seventy-five men were out to see that there was no disorder. They confiscated about 1,000 copies of an inflammatory circular.

"Never forgive the enemies of our class," they read. "If political office holders refuse to prosecute guilty capitalists, we must act as avengers of our comrades' blood." The rest of the circular was an appeal for money to appeal the case of a convict named Vincent Buccaforti, now serving a ten-year sentence for killing the foreman of a shoe manufacturing plant in which he worked.

Mrs. Raymond Robins of Chicago, National President of the Women's Trade Union League, was a marcher in the parade. She had come from Chicago especially to participate in it. With her was Eleanora O'Reilly, who is to have charge of the factory inspections on which demands for specific changes looking to better fire protection are to be based.

Just behind the league officials marched the suffragists and suffragettes, and then came the Socialists. Of the suffragists there was one who wore a conspicuously elaborate gown and carried a pink umbrella. She marched with the uptown section to Washington Square, and then, while waiting for the consolidation of the two lines, she deserted. Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch marched the entire route at the expense of her gown, and with her marched Dr. Helen Knight, Mrs. Sophia Kramer, Mrs. Jennette Rankin, Mrs. John Rodgers, and many others of the various suffragist organizations.

Through the east side, where sympathy with the "silent parade" was most tense, handkerchiefs waved from windows on both sides of the streets. In Fifth Avenue the only drapings observed were on the Church of the Ascension, whose doors were hung with American flags and crepe.

While thousands of mourners were gathered at the graves in Cypress Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn, in which the unidentified bodies of seven victims of the Asch Building fire were buried, Brownsville's grief was evinced by the closing of all clothing factories, a parade in which 5,000 girls and men took part, and several memorial meetings.

WHITMAN'S CASE READY.

District Attorney Whitman, who is preparing to submit data concerning the Asch building fire to the Grand Jury tomorrow, held a conference yesterday with State Factory Inspector G. I. Harmon, who inspected the Asch building on Feb. 27, a month before the fire. Mr. Harmon made a long statement in the form of an affidavit to the District Attorney.

Coroner Holtzhauser announced yesterday that he will hold his inquest on Monday, and that District Attorney Whitman will be present to examine witnesses.

The relief funds in the hands of Mayor Gaynor and Jacob H. Schiff, Treasurer of the Red Cross, were increased by yesterday's donations to \$80,205.65.

In aid of the fire sufferers a benefit will be given at the Bronx Theatre, at 150th Street and Melrose Avenue, on Saturday evening, April 22.