

The economic condition of the workers is most miserable. The great mass of laborers are in a most poverty-stricken condition. They receive miserably low wages and are compelled to work under the most oppressive conditions. The army of unemployed is growing ever larger and is reaching a critical stage. Being unorganized, they are at the mercy of the employers, particularly the big foreign corporations and the absentee landholders. The United Fruit Co., one of the largest employers of labor, owning and controlling large banana plantations in the Island and operating a banana-carrying steamship line, pays their workers who slave on the banana fields and those who do the loading, a mere pittance. The Jamaica Public Service Co., a Canadian concern, controls and operates the electric power and the street car systems, paying their workers a starvation wage, employing white inspectors, whose main job it is to spy on the workers and to "turn them in" on the flimsiest charges, against which the workers have no redress and for which they are laid-off or fined. The workers are an easy prey to the bourgeoisie, both white and black. To give an idea of the terrible exploitation of the workers, I will cite the prevailing rate of wages of a few trades and other occupations:

Trade	Wages	Hours
Carpenters	\$1.25 to \$1.75 per day	8 per day
Painters	1.12 " 1.50 " "	" " "
Bricklayers	1.25 " "	" " "
Printers (Linotype operators)	25.00 per week	" " "
" (composers)	10.25 " "	" " "
Motormen & conductors (10 years service and up)	\$.21 per hour	Early shift 8hrs. 20 m. per day Late shift 9 hrs. 48 m.
(less than 10 years service)	.17 " "	
Waitresses	\$1.00 to \$2.00 per week	10 to 11 hrs. per day
Domestics	2.00 per week	
Laborers (Construction workers)	\$.75 to \$1.00 per day	
Banana Carriers (loaders)	.43 per hundred bunches	
Clerks (store)	\$10.00 to \$15.00 per week	8 hours per day

The cost of living, particularly in Kingston is comparatively high. Most workers are therefore compelled to live in one or two room houses and can hardly secure the barest necessities of life.

Driven by such brutal exploitation, the workers often go on strike spontaneously and many of these strikes develop into riots. A number of such strikes occurred lately among the longshoremen, construction workers, tobacco workers and even the police force. One of the most important strikes known as the "Dalling Street Riot" was put down with force. This was a strike of construction workers who were getting 75 cents per day and had struck, demanding \$1.50. The police who were receiving 60 cents per day, stuck and are now getting \$1.50 per day. It is interesting to note that the police were aided by the civilians, who in groups broke into stores and other business places. Since the "Dalling Street Riot" a law was passed making it compulsory