

TRIBUTE TO A FIGHTER.

JOHANNA CORNELIUS entered the Clothing Industry at the age of 18 years, on the 18th November, 1930 and she joined the Union and right away displayed qualities of leadership.

Johanna made her first Trade Union speech to Clothing workers, calling them out on strike in 1931, and was arrested and jailed for the part she played.

She and other workers spent time in jail, after being arrested in a picket line. Bail was refused and they were released only when the Mine Workers demonstrated in their support.

In 1934 Johanna was appointed full time organiser for the Garment Union in the Transvaal.

In 1934 Johanna helped organise the Textile Workers Union and she retained her interest and her participation in this union until her death.

She organised the Tobacco workers into a union which led to the formation of the National Union of Tobacco Workers. She was also instrumental in establishing the Industrial Council for Tobacco workers.

Johanna held the position of National Organiser, Secretary and President of her union at various times over the years since 1930. She was the General Secretary of the Garment Workers' Union of South Africa (i.e. Transvaal, O.F.S. and Eastern Cape Unions) from 1952 when Solly Sachs was banned, until the time of her death.

She represented her union and TUCSA at International Conferences and at the I.L.O. Conferences in 1940 and in 1973. She also held positions on the Industrial Council and served as President of the Training College Management Board.

But it was as an organiser and fighter that Johanna shone. She never gave up and always opted in favour of a fight.

She was arrested on several occasions during her career for being involved in strikes and demonstrations, and in 1956 she organised the "stay at home" demonstration of 12 000 workers in opposition to the Job Reservation provisions of 1956.

Johanna Cornelius was a fighter and she played her trade union role with conviction and energy and did her duty as she saw it, to the exclusion of every other consideration in her life.

HARRIET BOLTON.