Women Picket Butcher Shops in Detroit Suburb, Slap, Scratch, Pull Hair.

MEN ARE CHIEF VICTIMS

Purchases Seized and Thrown Into Gutter in Demand for 20 Per Cent Price Cuts.

By The Associated Press.

DETROIT, July 27.—A housewife war for lower meat prices left many men bruised and bloodied in Hamtramck today, kept police scout cars dashing from one picketed butcher shop to another cussing and sharply curtailing retail meat sales.

Most of the casualties were among husbands of women not connected with the butchers' strike. The American Meat Packers' Association for Action Against the High Cost of Living, which placed 200 militant pickets in the field.

The men were seized by the pickets as they came out of the meat shops, their faces slapped, their hair pulled and their packages confiscated and hurled into the gutter. A few were knocked down and trampled.

Several persons were arrested but most of them were released unharmed.

The strike will be continued, Mrs. Mary Zuk, leader of the movement, declared, until meat prices are reduced 20 per cent. She predicted that the strike would spread from Hamtramck, a Polish section, into all other parts of the Detroit metropolitan area.

Hamtramck police corroborated Mrs. Zuk's assertion that the strike was not communist, as some of the merchants claimed.

"We aren't going to interfere with the women as long as they are reasonably peaceful," said Police Chief Joseph Rustoni. "However, I'd like to catch my wife out there."

Mayor Joseph A. Lewandowski of Hamtramck said that "some Communists appear to be participating."

"The big majority are good honest citizens with a legitimate complaint against exorbitant meat prices," he added.

Mrs. Zuk said that the picketing was decided upon after the committee had called unsuccessfully on several meat packers and merchants to demand price reductions.

"One of the packers said, 'Maybe you don't go see President Roosevelt?' He started this," Mrs. Zuk declared.

"Why didn't Roosevelt start it by killing the little pigs and sending the cattle. We don't know and we don't care. We aren't going to pay such high prices for meat and that's all there is to it."

Mrs. Zuk is the wife of an unemployed factory worker and the mother of two children.

The committee's headquarters is in the International Workers' Hall, which Mrs. Zuk said was the only one they could obtain.

The women, carrying placards and banners, picketed the stores throughout the day. Some of the placards read "Strikers Say 20 Per Cent Meat Prices, Don't Buy." Another bore legends attached to pickets like 'picket millionaires' and demanding lower meat prices for "Negroes who pay extra high prices."

Some men who were rouged by the pickets said they had attempted to crush the lines only after their wives had taunted them with remarks such as "You fellows are afraid of a few women, are you?"

An estimate that the damage was 95 per cent effective was made by some of the butchers, who seemed to be almost the only Hamtramck residents not destined to have a meatless Sunday dinner.