

C. P. BARRINGER PLEASES WORKERS

(Continued from Page 1.)

privileges which other craftsmen of our state enjoy.

The evils of child labor, and the largest percentage of illiterates existing in our state will be found among these employes. It is pathetic indeed to see children working ten, eleven, and even twelve long hours a day who should be out enjoying the pure air, and sunshine of the great outdoors. May I here and now urge every union man to use his influence and prestige to build a strong textile union in his community.

It is an indictment to the labor organizations that the employes of one of the largest industries of our state remain unorganized, and are forced to work under unhealthful, and unsanitary conditions, to fatten the purse of some of the wealth barons of our state.

Boys and girls that should be in school are found in the mills instead; so the most of my attention, efforts and actions for the past year has been to help aid and assist these employes to organize, and try and better their condition. I have spoken to them, talked with them, met with them, and plead with them to get in the organization that means so much for their progress, advancement, conditions and education.

The executive committee has met once during the past year. This meeting was held in Asheville, N. C., November, 1923. Some routine business was disposed of, and other things discussed for the advancement of our cause. The chief aim of the meeting, however, was to select an organizer for the State Federation. Only a few applications had been furnished for the position, and the committee selected Major Worley, for this work. The efforts of the organizer were not as successful as we would like for them to have been, yet I feel that he met with fair success. A number of new locals have been formed, and a number of locals have had their membership increased through his efforts. Much more could be said about the organizing work, but I suppose he will have a report at the convention covering his actions, so I will pass on.

Quite a bit of dissension and discussion rose during the political campaign, especially prior to the democratic primaries, but we pulled through it O. K., and I feel that through the formation of the Farmer-Labor non-partisan political conference, the solution will be in perfecting this organization. The coalition was not a failure, neither did we meet with the desired success, yet we have sown the seed that should bring relief in the near future, and I here want to speak for your unbiased support of the non-partisan move.

A number of central bodies and locals have organized auxiliaries during the past year. I heartily endorse this move, and I believe that the laws of the State Federation should be so amended as to seat representatives from the auxiliary organizations in our convention, with the privileges that we participate in, and enjoy.

Quite a bit of correspondence has come to us relative to the Conference for Progressive Political Action, and a number of international labor organizations have endorsed the candidacy of La Follette and Wheeler, and in keeping with the outlined program of the American Federation of Labor, I have supported this move all I could. We did not get the desired results from the Democratic National Convention, yet we kept a watchful eye on the convention, though it was monotonous, and I believe through the efforts of the officers of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor the North Carolina delegation was held in line for our man until he last.

We have had three strikes in North Carolina during the past year, and in each of these there has been a moral victory for the cause which we represent. The

textile strike of Charlotte, the Canton strike, and the present typographical strike of Asheville, N. C.

A number of Union Label Leagues have been organized during the year, but they don't seem to be getting the proper support from the laboring people. This shows a lack of interest on the part of the laboring people by not demanding the union label on their goods. I want to urge you to demand the label on every article purchased, and heartily support and co-operate with your Union Label League, this is the only solution to the buying problem that will force the merchants to handle these goods.

Some very important legislation has been passed by our national law making bodies, and now is before the legislatures of the several states for their ratification. It has been estimated that the North Carolina legislature will have only three votes favoring the child labor constitutional amendment. This is an indictment that we have not got enough of the right kind of men to represent us in the legislature, and I want to call your attention to the coming election in which some of these can be remedied, if we will only get aristocracy out of politics, and follow the non-partisan plan as is outlined by the American Federation of Labor.

In going from place to place over this state I find that hundreds of people in a number of communities belong to their labor organizations, and their central or district bodies, yet they subscribe to no labor paper. This is an indictment of the state labor press, and I recommend that a subscription campaign for a labor paper be started by all delegations as soon as they arrive to their homes and communities. This will help solve the educational problem, and will not only solve it for the workers, but will help inculcate labor's ideas into the youngsters in the home, who will read these papers. This I think a very important matter because education of the workers will solve a lot of our present day problems.

Much more could be said about the work during the year, but I feel that you have read from time to time in the papers about the various activities, so I have just touched on what I thought to be the most important things confronting us today.

There are several things which should be remedied, and I have the following recommendations to make:

1. I recommend that a representative of organized labor be stationed in Raleigh during the entire sessions of the legislature, and that he be furnished with the addresses of all the local, central, and district officers, both mail, telegraphic, and telephone, in order that he may get in touch with the leaders from any community in which strong opposition arises, also that his address be furnished all locals, central, and district bodies in order that they might get in touch with him when they deem it advisable.

2. The American Federation is preparing to make a strenuous organization drive in the South, and the North Carolina State Federation of Labor should be represented at each convention of the American Federation of Labor while the eyes of the entire federation is centered upon us here, and I recommend that arrangements be made whereby a representative can be present, and show our appreciation for their interest.

3. I recommend that the delegates here assembled be as active during the entire year as they are during the convention, and that they daily live the part of a real union man, and come to the conventions for work, and not as vacationists, or bench warmers, or politicians.

I want to thank each of you for the support given me during the year, and I will feel that my efforts in this great cause have not been in vain. Trusting that I may have the privilege of meeting with you in many more conventions, and that the movement will go

forward in greater strides, I remain,

Yours fraternally,
C. P. BARRINGER,
President.

WHEN COAL IS GONE.

Toronto, Ontario, Aug. 14.—When coal and oil are exhausted, new forms of fuel will be obtained from common salt and water, according to Professor F. G. Donnan, of London, at a meeting of the British Association for the advancement of science.

Where water power exists near beds of sodium chloride, otherwise known as common salt, the power will be turned into electricity and used to obtain chlorine from the salt, the chlorine gas to be transported to industrial centers for fuel, Professor Donnan said.

EMPLOYMENT DROPS.

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 14.—July factory employment in this state continued its "definite downward trend" of the last four months, reports the state department of labor. The recession is led by clothing, textiles and metals. The employment drop from June to July was between three and four per cent. This is a net reduction of 14 per cent since April.

The Pennsylvania Railroad system employs more than 200,000 men and women.

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