

## Is the State Prosecuting the Albemarle Unionists?

**Manufacturers Say the State Is, and Paid Attorneys  
Are Present in Large Numbers. Judge Frank  
Carter Says Prosecuted Will Not Get a Fair Trial  
in Albemarle.**

The trial of the prosecuted textile workers, including Marvin Ritch, attorney for the textile workers, and Organizer Graham, began at Albemarle Monday before County Judge Ingram. This is a preliminary hearing and Ingram is sitting as a committing magistrate. The manufacturers claim they are not prosecuting the case and that it is the State. There is no further evidence of state interest other than the far-famed Solicitor Brock, who has set himself upon a pedestal as the king pin labor prosecutor. All the lawyers of Albemarle have been retained, and E. T. Candler, Sr., Corporation Attorney of Charlotte, is also retained to aid the Solicitor in the prosecution. These lawyers say they expect their pay to come from the manufacturers. Lawyer Smith, Chief Attorney of the Tallahassee Power Co., is the leading prosecuting attorney. If the State is going into this kind of business, it is high time the voters and taxpayers were informed. No state official has so far entered a denial of the manufacturers' statement. Rev. Tom Bost, in the Greensboro News, says the indicted are Republicans, with the exception of two, and intimating the whole thing is a political frame-up. If this is the case, the State's Solicitor is engaged in a mighty small business. From the evidence so far produced by the State there is absolutely nothing against Ritch and Graham, and practically none against the others, with the single exception of the one that had the fight with the sheriff, and this came over an old-standing dispute.

Judge Carter came out in his paper advocating a change of venue and declared those under indictment could not get justice where the cases were being tried. A majority of the people of the State know that Judge Carter is right. It is evidenced by the huge bond demanded by the very learned Solicitor that injustice and malice entered into his every action. He knows that he is violating even the Constitution of the State in this matter, for he must know that Section 14 provides that "Excessive bail should not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishment inflicted." The hard dollar makes fends of far too many. To say that the manufacturers are free from blame in this matter is going too far.

The following is taken from the Charlotte Observer, admittedly under corporate influence, and therefore must be a true statement of the cause of the lock-out or strike: "Agreement as set forth by H. F. Yorke, Secretary and Treasurer of the Albemarle Local United Textile Workers of America:—

- (1) That the above manufacturing company will recognize the right on the part of their employees to organize and do collective bargaining with regard to wages, hours and working conditions; and therefore will in the future meet the duly authorized representatives of Local No. 1254, United Textile Workers of America. If being distinctly understood that this section does not go beyond what is known as an 'open shop.'
- (2) That all former employees be re-instated without discrimination against them on account of their affiliation with the Union.
- (3) That all claims for house rent be cancelled for the period of the shut-down."

This was presumably after discharges for retaining membership in a labor union, and the manufacturers refused to sign or enter into collective bargaining. The textile workers are standing pat and they have found that the other labor organizations in the State are going to back them in every way just as long as they behave themselves, for labor is not going to stand for the unjust prosecution of its members, it makes no difference how humble they be. Is the State prosecuting a certain class of its citizens at the behest of another preferred class at the expense of the taxpayers?

**Story of the Trial.**

Albemarle, N. C., Sept. 23.—Court convened for the trial of the various union men charged with conspiracy at 11:25 Monday morning, and immediately launched into a verbal battle on technical points. Judge Ingram overruled the motion of Judge Thomas A. Jones, counsel for the defense, asking that the solicitor be required to furnish a bill of particulars in the second and third counts, which refer to

'certain' laws of the State of North Carolina, Judge Jones contending that under the ambiguous wording of the count a man might be arrested numberless times immediately following his having been acquitted. Judge Ingram decided to hear the evidence before requiring the bill of particulars.

Mr. T. D. Maness suggested in court that Mr. E. T. Candler, of Charlotte, who has also arrived in Albemarle to assist Mr. Brock in the prosecution, dictated the fourth count, which was added to the bill of indictment on motion of Solicitor Brock. It follows:

"Fourth Count.—And the said parties above named, being persons of evil minds and dispositions, together with divers other evil disposed persons whose names are unknown to affiant, wickedly devising and intending to injure and destroy the property of Wiscasset Mills Company (a corporation duly created and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina, with its principal place of business in the county and state aforesaid) its stockholders and faithful employees, and their trade, business, and occupation, on or about the 15th day of September, 1919, at and in the county and state aforesaid, wickedly, maliciously and unlawfully did conspire, combine, confederate and agree together between and among themselves, unlawfully to injure and destroy the said corporation, its stockholders and faithful employees in their trade business and occupation which it and they then and there conducted, exercised and carried on in the county and state aforesaid, by forcing the manufacturing plant of the said corporation to be and remain closed down against the will of said corporation by riotously, tumultuously and tumultuously assembling themselves, or counselling, advising and encouraging others of their co-conspirators and confederates, to affiant unknown, to unlawfully, riotously, tumultuously and tumultuously assemble at or near the manufacturing plant of said corporation located in the county and state aforesaid, for the purpose of forcibly and against their will deterring, restraining and preventing the said faithful employees of the said corporation from entering the said manufacturing plant of said corporation for the purpose of working and laboring therein, by means of threats, intimidations, assaults and batteries upon the persons of said employees, and in furtherance of said unlawful conspiracy, combination, confederation and agreement among themselves on or about the 15th day of September, 1919, at and in the county aforesaid, did unlawfully, riotously, tumultuously and tumultuously assemble themselves, or counsel, advise and encourage others of their said co-conspirators and confederates to so assemble and station themselves in great numbers at or upon the premises of said deterring, restraining and preventing the said employees of said corporation from entering its said manufacturing plant for the purpose of working and laboring therein, by means of threats, intimidations, assaults and batteries, upon the persons of said employees, and then and there being so assembled did by means of such threats, intimidations, assaults and batteries, then and there threatened and committed upon the persons of said employees of said corporation and the officers of the law then and there assembled to keep the peace, did prevent said employees against their will from entering the manufacturing plant of said corporation for the purpose of working and laboring therein as aforesaid, contrary to the form of the statute in such cases made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State."

**Motion of Solicitor Overruled.**

The motion of the solicitor that all the men indicted be tried at one time met with further vociferous objection on the part of the counsel for the defense. Attorneys for Graham and Ritch were quick to say that their clients could not be fairly tried, as they were not on the scene of action. The prosecution contended that they did not have to be; that they conspired. Judge Ingram conceded the right of these two defendants to be tried separately from the others.

Among out-of-town people attending the trial are Miss Bleeker Ritch, sister of Marvin L. Ritch, and Miss Minnie Reed, also of Charlotte. (Continued on page 8.)

## 500 CARPENTERS STRIKE AT CHARLOTTE

**Refuse to Continue Working Ten  
Hours a Day, and Demand  
Recognition of Union.**

Charlotte, Sept. 23.—Demanding recognition of their union and same pay for one hour's less work daily, Charlotte carpenters refused to go to work Monday morning. They announced their determination to remain on strike until the contractors acceded to their demands. It was estimated that there are about 500 carpenters here, and all of them have quit work. This has tied up the largest amount of building work which has been under way in Charlotte for several months.

The carpenters, it was stated, have made all plans for forming their unions; but they claimed that when they conferred with the contractors regarding organizing, the latter protested and announced that they would not recognize the union. They also expressed themselves as unwilling to continue the 10-hour pay basis, in effect at present, for nine hours work.

Efforts are being made by real estate men and others to effect a settlement in order that building operations, which are almost completely tied up, may be continued. The carpenters announced their intention of holding out until the contractors recognized their union and agreed to ten hours pay for a nine-hour day, while the contractors declared themselves again to be unable to meet the demands.

## SHOPMEN AND CARMEN SECURE BEST TERMS

**Administration Enters Agreement  
Highly Pleasing to Heads of  
Railroad Crafts**

(Special to The Union Herald.)

Washington, Sept. 23.—Notwithstanding the ulterior efforts used to bring on a gigantic strike of the 600,000 shopmen of the United States, the officers of the Railway Department have secured a most comprehensive agreement with the Railroad Administration.

Bert M. Jewell, acting president, and Martin F. Ryan, president of the Railway Carmen, declare it is the greatest contract ever made by a labor organization.

Nothing anywhere in the world can compare with the agreement. It provides for a uniform national contract with 400 railroads and these high points:

- Eight-hour day.
- Time and a half for overtime.
- Apprentice rules.
- Uniform allowance for meals and overtime in road service.
- Seniority regulations governing each craft at each point.

The wildest dream ever had by a shopman is carried out in the agreement. When the railroads are turned over to their owners, this contract will continue in force. It is signed by Walker D. Hines, Director General.

The result is a forceful condemnation of certain members of the unions (Continued on page 8.)

## Great Steel Industry is Almost Completely Tied Up

**Hundreds of Thousands of Steel Workers Are on  
Strike to Free Themselves From Industrial Slavery**

—Gary, the Czar, Refuses to Talk.

According to Associated Press reports, there was little change yesterday in the alignment of the opposing forces of the labor unions and the steel companies. In the Mahoning Valley of Ohio the strikers' success is complete. The industry, which is the backbone of Youngstown and a score of neighboring villages, is paralyzed and all its 44,000 wage-earners idle. Elsewhere the struggle is being carried on with varying success, the issue still being doubtful on the great strategic sectors radiating from Pittsburgh to Chicago.

The situation around Chicago is more definite than that in the Pennsylvania region. A majority of the mills are closed, and those which are still operating are doing so with reduced forces. The threatened sympathetic strike of the lake seamen seemed near as the result of the refusal of the crews of eleven ore freighters to dock their vessels.

After the first test of strength, industrial leaders and commanders of labor's legions were willing to admit that they faced a struggle which might prove long and bitter. Grim evidence of preparations made for the industrial conflict were seen in the armed guards surrounding all the mills, but the first day of the strike ended with no signs of serious disorder, except in New Castle, Pa., where seven persons were shot in rioting following an alleged attempt to prevent workers from entering a plant.

Early reports from strike headquarters in Pittsburgh claimed that 284,000 men had taken their places in the ranks of the strikers, but, although no statement was forthcoming from the steel corporation's headquarters in New York, company officials in the zone of action hastened to challenge the estimate of labor leaders.

The steel corporation, against which the main offensive is directed, was able to operate most of its plants in the Pittsburgh district, according to company officials. In the Chicago steel center some of the largest plants were forced to close down, but others operated on a reduced scale.

It was in the Mahoning Valley that the strikers seemed to make the most headway, for with three large steel mills in the Youngstown district shut down and others running only part capacity, the steel producing industry in that section was reported to be fast approaching general paralysis. In the Cleveland district, too, the strikers apparently made a successful attack. Only four of the twenty plants were in operation, and according to labor leaders, 19,000 men are affected.

Telegraph wires leading in headquarters of both capital and labor were kept warm, as report followed report on conditions at 145 plants affected by the strike order. As it became known that neither the corporation had been able to keep all its plants in operation nor the strikers had been able to produce a complete tie-up of the industry, leaders began to settle down to the prospect of a long fight.

Officers of the Carnegie company, the steel corporation's largest subsidiary in Pittsburgh, claimed that, although their forces had been depleted by desertions, they had been able to reorganize their workers so as to keep all of the important mills operating at almost 100 per cent. This brought emphatic denial from the labor camp.

Steel officials admitted that in some cases blast furnaces, which they said they always had regarded as their most vulnerable spots, had been badly crippled. This situation was met by banking some furnaces and concentrating the remaining workers on others.

### No Comment by Elbert Gary.

No comment whatever on the strike was forthcoming from the headquarters of the United States Steel Corporation in New York. Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors, who shapes the policies of the gigantic industrial combination, declared both in the morning and in the afternoon that he had absolutely nothing to say for publication about the strike or the company's plans for meeting it.

### Two Killed by State Troops.

Farrell, Pa., Sept. 23.—Two men were killed and two others were wounded in another clash between State police and strikers and their sympathizers here tonight.

The trouble started when a crowd congregated at Staunton and Greenfield Streets and refused to disperse. When the troopers charged the crowd they were fired upon, it is alleged. The mounted officers returned the

fire, killing two men, eye-witnesses say.

Tonight's riot occurred at the same place where one was killed and many were injured in an outbreak late night.

### 3-Year-Old Child Shot by Guards.

Buffalo, Sept. 23.—One man was killed and four persons, one of them a 3-year-old boy, were wounded when plant guards fired with shot-guns on a crowd of strikers and strike sympathizers who had congregated near one of the gates of the Lackawanna Steel Company's plant late today.

City policemen restored order after the shooting, but the strikers were in an ugly mood, according to reports to the police, and further trouble was expected before morning.

### Conflicting Claims.

Pittsburgh, Sept. 23.—Conflicting claims as much at variance as those given out the opening day of the big steel strike continue to be made by the contending forces in the widespread industrial contest now being waged.

The leaders of the organized workers boldly claimed today the strike is spreading and that thousands of men who worked yesterday joined the walkout today. Predictions were made that plants still in operation would be closed tomorrow or Thursday and that no gains were made anywhere, either by the United States Steel Corporation, the principal factor in the struggle, or by independent concerns.

William Z. Foster, secretary of the national committee for organizing iron and steel workers, in charge of national headquarters here, said reports received by him during the day from organizers and others in charge of steel districts show that 237,000 men are participating in the strike.

While not giving any statistics, corporation representatives tonight disputed the figures, asserting that if they were true many of the districts included in Foster's list would be completely shut down, which is not the case.

### Additional Plants Idle in Chicago.

Chicago, Sept. 23.—Closing of additional steel plants in South Chicago and Indiana Harbor and absence of appreciably increased activity in mills which were attempting to operate with reduced forces in Gary marked the second day of the steel strike in the Chicago district.

Union leaders claimed gains of approximately 10,000 in the number of strikers. Officials of the United States Steel Corporation plants maintained the reticence which they have exhibited since the first strike murmurs were heard, and operators of independent plants settled down to a policy of watchful waiting.

Among the rank and file of the strikers the holiday aspects of a walkout were accentuated. The moving picture houses and other recreation enterprises in the steel towns are booming, and hastily organized dances were advertised by mushroom social clubs.

No signs of disorder were in evidence at any of the strike centers. On the contrary, union pickets joked with the policemen who kept them moving, and even exchanged banter with company guards posted about the entrances of the plants.

The union leaders of the district met in Chicago late today, and after their reports had been tabulated the claim of 75,000 strikers, as against yesterday's figures of 67,500, was given out.

The first court action of the strike came late today when the Pollak Steel Company, in Chicago, asked an injunction against picketing of its plant, directing the action against John Fitzpatrick and William Z. Foster, of the national strike committee, the South Chicago Union Council and four pickets. The application will be heard tomorrow. The company set forth that its employees were willing to work, but that several had complained that they had been threatened with bodily harm because of their refusal to strike.

## Food Prices

**Consult Your Pocket-Book and Decide Which is True  
GOING UP.**

Washington, Sept. 20.—Retail prices of food increased one per cent in August as compared with July and reached the highest point in the nation's history, despite the government's campaign to reduce the cost of living.

The increase, probably already apparent to the consumer, was revealed Friday night when the department of labor's bureau of labor statistics made public its monthly report.

The foodstuffs increasing in price were eggs, rice, potatoes, milk, pork chops, butter, cheese, coffee, dry beans, sugar and bread. Prices declined for sirloin and round steak, rib and chuck roasts, onions, bacon, flour, cabbage and canned peas, corn, beans and tomatoes.

### GOING DOWN.

Washington, Sept. 20.—Reports to the department of justice from 12 states indicate there has been a decline of 10 to 15 per cent in food prices since the time the fair price committee began their work.

From four states have come reports on wholesale prices indicating a decline of two to five per cent. Virtually no reductions in clothing prices have been noted.

The reports on retail food prices were said to have been from cities and counties well distributed throughout the country, and the information is believed by officials here to be a fair indication of what is going on everywhere. They think that results now becoming evident will be cumulative as the season advances, new declines in wholesale prices being reflected in retail prices and additional reductions coming from the campaign against hoarding and profiteering.

## RIGHT TO ORGANIZE IS LABOR'S DEMAND

**Efforts of Political and Capitalistic  
Despots Cannot Stop Onward  
March of Civilization.**

The right to organize will triumph over all opposition, says the Journal of Electrical Workers and Operators, official publication of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The Journal says, editorially:

"Thinking men of all stations in life who are alive to conditions are conscious that a great change or turn-over is about to occur in our industrial life, and see two ways by which this change may be brought about. The vast majority are determined a change shall occur, and that the democracy men fought and died for shall be established, not alone politically, but industrially as well.

The spirit that established the right of people to govern themselves is alive today, and the people are determined to extend to industry the principles of democratic government. The movement is a part of the onward march of civilization. Industrial monarchs are marshalling their forces to defeat the movement. Their efforts will be as futile as were the efforts of the recently deposed political despots. Industrial tyrants are conscious of the fact that their employees are determined to establish the principle of collective bargaining, and have a say as to what wages they shall receive and under what conditions they will labor.

"It is amusing to see the last line of defense such employers have established, which is the employer-controlled organization of employees, they foolishly thinking that free and liberty-loving workmen and women will ever be satisfied to accept a substitute for something they desire and are determined to have, namely, the right to organize. Such employers are to be pitied for their ignorance of human nature. They should know that employees with intelligence enough to produce the products of this age surely know enough

about economics to determine what is best suited to improve their conditions.

"The great steel corporations are employing every method to defeat the efforts of their employees to organize. Free speech and the right of peaceable assemblage would be suppressed if the steel trust could have their way. The representatives of these great corporations are beginning to realize that each effort made to deny constitutional rights to their employees results in strengthening the determination of the employees to organize and obtain industrial democracy, a condition that is right, just, and humane; therefore bound to prevail, by peace if possible, by force if necessary. Open-minded, peace-loving citizens, both employers and employees, prefer the former. Capitalistic saboteurs and industrial vandals in general prefer the latter. In our judgment, the former will prevail, and even though conditions are serious and the situation extremely aggravating, we still have sufficient confidence in the American public to believe that no question will confront us that cannot be solved by peaceable methods."

## TEACHERS CLOSE SCHOOLS.

Linton, Ind.—The 25 school teachers in Stockton township, Greene County, did not open schools as planned, because of a difference between the township trustees and a Teachers' union, which was organized during the summer. There was a discrepancy in the wage rate the teachers were to receive. The trustees had secured the services of other teachers to fill the vacated positions, but when the situation was explained to them they too refused to assume the duties of the other teachers.

## BETTER PAY FOR PRINTERS.

New Haven, Conn.—Printers in the commercial branch have been conceded an advance of \$4 per week. This action was taken when a delegation of Typographical Union No. 47 conferred with a committee of the Typothetae.