



The Charlotte Labor Journal

Official Organ Central Labor Union; endorsed by State Federation of Labor

Truthful, Honest, Impartial

AND THE FARM NEWS

Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1935

JOURNAL ADVERTISING DESERVES CONSIDERATION OF THE READER

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CENTRAL LABOR UNION GOES THROUGH ALL "THE PACES" ON A STORMY NIGHT—INTEREST MANIFESTED BY PARTICIPANTS

A stormy night did not prevent the Tuesday meeting of Central Labor Union from being fairly well attended. The "Old Guard" were all present, with few exceptions, and four new delegates were obligated and seated. President Albea's absence, the first part of the meeting, found Brother Dumas in the chair, and doing a good job of it. While the storm raged outside peace and calm marked the session, until our old friend "Morals" (and a club) bobbed up again. President Albea had arrived, and there were motions, substitutes, and counter motions all in a huddle, and it took a good presiding officer to get them broke loose and straightened out. But finally a "clincher" motion got through, and your writer hopes, that as we have had plenty of "fish," enough of "civil service," that Central body has heard the last of the subject which has been termed "Morals," because it is not desirable to call it by its proper name.

The locals reported working conditions good, fair, middling, with all the special and standing committees making good reports. Delegate Lacy Ranson again pinch-hit for Brother Boate as recording secretary. The meeting, due to adjourn at 10 P. M. went another hour, until 11, but the delegates stuck to a chilly hall, and the lady delegates showed their keen interest by staying to the last.

Three National organizers were present, namely, Liske, of the Textile Workers; Adams, of the Hosiery Workers, and Kendall, of the Machinists, the latter being a delegate to Central body. Brother Adams made an interesting talk on his organizing activities in North Carolina, and disclosed a few interesting incidents of the tactics being used by some manufacturers to prevent organization of the workers.

Brother Kendall asked for assistance of the ladies of the labor movement in Charlotte in organizing a Women's Label League at Shelby this Saturday night and many have volunteered to be present. He also told of an advertising "racket" being worked by outside parties here in the name of organized labor. This brought forth a motion from Brother Fulleton, of the Teamsters and Chauffeurs, that The Charlotte Labor Journal be recognized in Charlotte as the only official paper of this section, and that merchants and business concerns be warned against outsiders soliciting advertisements or funds in the name of Labor, unless they had secured the sanction of Central Labor Union. For information merchants and business men may call The Journal at 3-4855, or Central Labor Union, 9185. The motion carried unanimously.

Tires were brought up and the information passed out that India tires were Union made. This matter will be gone into further at a later date, the matter of Union tires being turned over to the Label and another committee.

A communication was read from the St. Louis, Mo., Central body asking that garments manufactured by the Forest City Mfg. Co., at that place be put on the "We don't buy" list. These garments are cotton dresses, under the following names: Shirley Lee, Peggy Palmer, Polly Ann, Forest Maid, Varsity Drag, Suzette, Dolly Madison. Follow Thru, Campus Frock. These goods are to be found or sale in Charlotte, so Labor Ladies will please take notice and watch for these dresses.

The Union Label movement in Charlotte and vicinity is taking on life, and much work is being done by thousands of members in the ranks of Labor, and more Union-Made goods are being placed upon sale at local stores.

HAPPINESS

During the past four or five years, perhaps longer, but at least since this period of later date which we have been pleased to refer to as the depression, sadness and gloom seem to have been uppermost in the human heart, and little cheer or hope has been expressed in general conversation, except such few kindly remarks as may have been stolen in unexpect. All this being only too true and well known by all, did seem strangely out of place recently to hear one man complain because of a song, especially when the said song was the result of the overflowing of a naturally cheerful heart, which of late months have been rather scarce.

The above remark was inspired as the result of a conversation held by the writer recently in the lobby of a small country hotel, and it must be admitted in all truth the idea expressed by this party did not take deep root in at least one heart.

In the aforesaid hotel is a certain young lady, kin to the proprietor, who is also employed as an assistant manager and general caretaker. Being of a naturally cheerful disposition, light of heart, deeply interested in religion, and happy all day long just from sheer joy of being alive and well provided with all the most necessary things of life, it is her habit to be most of the time singing at her work, and her songs generally consist of religious songs or hymns, never in a loud voice, and quite a bit of music in the voice. She may be sitting quietly in a chair for some time, when suddenly she remembered some bit of work to be done in another place, and immediately she jumps to perform the task, automatically singing as she goes.

If there is anything nicer than to hear one sing while at work, this writer does not know what it is. Yet, while sitting in this hotel lobby talking to another guest, the lady passed by singing, and the guest asked me if I knew the guest personally. The answer was affirmative, for we have been acquaintances for a few years. He then asked me if she were in her right mind. Naturally, I was surprised at the query, and asked the cause. Then it was that he launched his views concerning singing in a hotel, especially by one officially connected with the establishment. His complaint was that it was very annoying, awakening him from his slumbers. Now this man is engaged in soliciting trade from door to door, and no doubt meets many faces which radiate expressions other than joy when he rings the bell and receives a reply, and one would expect him to be glad of hearing a song of cheer, rather than registering an adverse feeling in the matter.

We pick up the daily paper, and about the most prominent thing in it is the account of a murder, suicide, wreck, kidnaping, robbery, hold-up, death of a friend or relative, fire with fatal results, and any number of other things which tend to make life sad, and in view of all this it certainly is hard to understand why a complaint should be made because of a happy, singing heart in a hotel lobby.

The party who complained was not the most disagreeable person one could meet, nor yet an overly happy one—just seemed to belong to the average run of men, when in ordinary conversation, using good speech, showing a very good business education, for he claims to have been in business for years, but he certainly does not seem to have his ears tuned for the softer and more cheerful things which one can hear if one wishes to, for while gloom has spread abroad in the land, yet it has never become so dense that a song could not break out from some happy soul, glad that the Lord has permitted life to exist, and that fate has not decreed it to perpetual gloom.

As for the writer, let it be said that there is no musical ability in his makeup, and if any music enters his daily life it must be produced by some power beyond his own, and he has never yet seen the time when he would complain because a young woman with a naturally cheerful heart would let it bubble out for others to enjoy.

Young lady, it is the hope that you may for many years be able to sing in your own way, and by doing so spread the joy of life abroad, that others may receive the benefit also, for even should it unconsciously annoy some person for a moment, you will never know it, and the world generally will be better because you sang.

EFFORT FOR RILEY INQUEST IS TO BE PUSHED BY ATTORNEY ABERNETHY—MAKES STATEMENT

The efforts to force an inquest into the death of Ernest H. Riley, Mount Holly textile worker who was fatally injured at Belmont during the recent textile strike, when he was bayoneted in the thigh, allegedly by a National Guardsman on duty in front of a closed cotton mill, are by no means ended, though the Gaston county grand jury regards its announced investigations closed, William H. Abernathy, Charlotte lawyer, said Saturday night to a Charlotte Observer reporter.

Mr. Abernathy was retained several weeks ago by the family of the slain cotton mill operative to represent the family in an attempt to have a public inquest into the man's death, but thus far he has been unable to have such an inquest ordered although Governor Ehringhaus has instructed the National Guard to co-operate in bringing to light the true facts in the case.

"The alleged investigation of the Riley case by a Gaston grand jury resulted in no action, as was to have been expected from the actions of the present and former coroners in refusing to order an inquest into Mr. Riley's death," said Mr. Abernathy. "It appeared that the officials concerned with this matter had combined for the purpose of keeping the true facts of the case from coming to the knowledge of the public and finally succeeded in having it buried in the grand jury room.

"The grand jury spent several hours investigating a matter in which several hundred people were concerned. The evidence definitely indicates Mr. Riley was slain by a member of the Morganton guard company, yet it appears that the grand jury saw fit to subpoena only two or three members of that company to appear before it. The solicitor and the officials of the grand jury were informed that there were several witnesses who said they could identify the slayer by sight. The grand jury, however, took no action to give these witnesses opportunity to identify the slayer.

"I refuse to consider the case as a closed one and will continue my efforts to learn the identity of the slayer. I have requested Solicitor Carpenter to give the witnesses mentioned above an opportunity to view the Morganton company and point out, if they can, the man who did the stabbing. If for any reason Solicitor Carpenter can't arrange this, as he has agreed to do, I shall appeal to the governor to have this done. In the meantime, I state again that the act of the soldier who killed Mr. Riley was not an act of self-defense, but a wilful and wanton murder, which, under the law of this state, is punishable by death.—Observer.

WOMEN'S UNION LABEL LEAGUE HAS BIRTHDAY PARTY MONDAY NIGHT; CAKE CUT, COFFEE SERVED

On Monday night a gathering of Loyalty Label Boosters assembled in Central Labor Union Hall to celebrate the first anniversary of the first Women's Union Label League to be formed in North Carolina. On the stage, a table draped in lace, behind drawn curtains reposed the beautifully decorated birthday cake, bearing this inscription, gracefully traced in red lettering: "Our First Anniversary—W. U. L. L." On each side was a candle in a silver holder, and in the center of the cake was one lone, tiny candle.

But, to the meeting and then back to the cake. The meeting was called together by Mrs. W. E. McKamey, the worthy and honored president, and prayer was offered by Brother Harry Boate, whom might be styled as the Labor Parson, or the Labor Oracle, of Typographical Union, Central Labor Union, the Label League, etc. Two new members were obligated. All the officers were at their posts and the ceremony was impressive. Secretaries Mesdames Moore and Amyx made their reports and the president made a short talk on the history and struggles of the Union Label League. The editor of The Labor Journal was called upon to give a brief outline of the organization work of the first league and the second Charlotte league, which is to be concluded next Sunday at the Textile hall of the Highland Park Textile Local.

Gains were shown in Union Label activities, and the fact is becoming more apparent that the Union Label is to be more of a factor with the buyers in the ranks of organized labor in 1935 than in 1934, as already stocks of goods bearing the Union Label are being laid in by some of our merchants—and the demand for these goods is what is going to tell the tale.

Now, back to the cake. The curtains were drawn and directly behind the lace covered table stood the president of the league, Mrs. W. E. McKamey, while on each side of her were lined Mrs. A. J. Dumas, vice-

Purchasing Power Must Be Raised, Gov. Earle Says

HARRISBURG, Pa.—A hot attack on special privilege and a pledge to support a program designed to increase the purchasing power of the masses featured the inaugural address of George H. Earle, sworn in as the first Democratic Governor in Pennsylvania in 40 years. Thomas Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, took office as lieutenant-governor with Earle.

Gov. Earle assailed special privilege as responsible in part for the plight of the State during the depression years and promised to lead a fight for "new ground."

"For the next four years and I hope I speak loudly enough to be heard in Wall Street, it's 'Hands off Harrisburg!'" Earle warned.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF SECTION 7-A VIOLATORS

WASHINGTON.—It is understood from information secured from reliable sources here that the Department of Justice will ask Federal Grand Juries in different parts of the country to return criminal indictments against employers found to have violated Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

The act provides that violation of this Section is a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum fine of \$500 for each offense, with each day's violation considered a separate offense. So far, punishment for violations of Section 7-A has been chiefly to remove the offender's NRA Blue Eagle, only two criminal prosecutions having been instituted thus far. In the last case, that of a York, Pa., battery manufacturer, tried in Harrisburg, Pa., the accused was found guilty on ten separate counts and fined \$150 on each count, or a total of \$1,500.

It appears to be the consensus of opinion among officials of organized labor that decisive action on the part of the Government to enforce the punitive provisions of the Act would have a salutary effect upon those reluctant to comply with the law and result in greater harmony and progress for all concerned.

S. C. Governor Asks Probe of Relief Work

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan 21.—Governor Johnston disclosed today that he had urged Harry L. Hopkins, national FERA administrator, to visit South Carolina and see for himself conditions causing discontent over the state relief program.

The governor wrote Hopkins an official letter soon after taking office. He described in it what he termed the need for "correction" of present tendencies of the relief administration.

Johnston commented that he was "convinced that a large portion of the money has been wasted while the needy have gone without."

Every dollar spent for Union Label goods and services means better wages, shorter hours and decent working conditions for every worker.

The Union Label Mark of the American Labor movement.

If some philanthropic or uplift organization, some association for improving something or other, some Civic Federation, Rockefeller, Carnegie or Sage Foundation had added thirty years to the lives of 80,000 people, established a home for the sick and aged, raised wages, shortened hours of labor, paid millions for old-age pensions and maintained a great system of education; how the plaudits of such an achievement would ring through the columns of the press! All these things the union printers have done.

—A. W. SIMONS, in a leading magazine.

SEND THIS PROTEST

To Members of Congress and of the United States Senate:
All organized labor is interested in the welfare of the 10-cent cigarette.

Today all cigarettes pay a tax of 6 cents per package, regardless of retail price.

This means the death of the 10-cent cigarette, 90 per cent of which are union made under conditions established by collective bargaining.

The United States Treasury and the U. S. Department of Agriculture approve a change in this tax levy.

It is proposed that 10-cent cigarettes be taxed \$2.70 per thousand, while 15-cent and other higher priced cigarettes be taxed \$3 per thousand.

The Tobacco Workers' International Union supports this proposed change.

Organized labor is back of the Tobacco Workers' International Union to save the life of a sound product, which is union made and which today is unfairly taxed.

We petition you to support and work for this change in tax on cigarettes at the earliest possible hour.

Signed _____

City and date _____

THE PRESIDENT'S BALL
Don't forget the President's Ball on January 30. This is an affair that appeals to everyone, as it will benefit suffering humanity nationally as well as locally. Clarence Kuester, who is heading the affair, is doing a good job of it.

Western Textile Council To Meet at Stanley Creek; Other News

Western Textile Council will meet in business session at Stanley Creek at 2:30 P. M., Saturday, March 26. An open meeting will be held at 7:30 P. M.

"Textile Red" Liske, organizer of the United Textile Workers will address a mass meeting of workers at Lexington at 2 P. M., Saturday, March 26. Organizer Liske is a busy man these days, and is covering much territory in the interest of organized labor.

Attention is again called by our Shelby friends to the organization meeting of the ladies of Shelby Saturday at 7 P. M., to organize a Women's Union Label League.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR, 1935

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