



The Charlotte Labor Journal

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

Truthful, Honest, Impartial

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

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YOUR ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1935

JOURNAL ADVERTISING DESERVES CONSIDERATION OF THE READER

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FEDERAL LABOR UNION PLANS SHOW TO RAISE MONEY FOR MUNICIPAL WADING POOLS IN CHARLOTTE

Arrangements are being made to stage a health, beauty and safety show March 18-23 at the Armory-Auditorium under the name of the "Queen City Exposition" and the sponsorship of the Federal Labor Union with the approval and indorsement of Central Labor Union.

Lacy Ranson, formerly superintendent of parks and recreation, member of the Federal Labor Union, is making the plans for the exposition.

The project will not be conducted to make money but all of the funds will be used to complete the building of wading pools for children, a construction program that was started during the time Mr. Ranson was serving as superintendent of parks and recreation.

Exhibitors of commodities pertaining to health, beauty and safety are being invited to display their wares during the exposition, and prominent speakers are being extended invitations to appear.

Experienced exposition men and women will aid Mr. Ranson in planning the show, and thousands of persons are expected to attend. During the last month many large organizations have been approached with an outline of the proposed exposition, and they have expressed considerable interest.

To stimulate interest in the high school essay and poster contest being conducted in connection with the exposition, Leonard Atwell, president of the Federal Labor Union, announced that in addition to the many valuable prizes, every child entering the contest will receive a complimentary ticket of admission to the exposition.

The essay contest is open to all children in the high schools of Meck-

lenburg, Iredell, Stanley, Cabarrus, Union, Anson, Rowan, Gaston, Cleveland, Lincoln and Catawba counties in North Carolina and York, Lancaster, Chester, and Cherokee counties in South Carolina.

Children are being asked to submit a short skit in the form of a pageant, play or essay of a scientific nature dealing with either Health, Beauty or Safety or a combination of the three. Posters may deal with either of the three above subjects or they may be treated as a combination.

Principals of all schools in the above counties that have not received complete information pertaining to above contest are asked to communicate with the Queen City Exposition offices at 809 Independence Trust building in Charlotte, said Mr. Atwell.

Members of the Queen City Exposition committee attended a meeting in the Masonic hall in Belmont Saturday evening, asking the support of those present to make the Queen City Exposition a success. Mr. Atwell, Lacy Ranson and L. E. Johnson made talks and were well received and the full support of the entire gathering was pledged.

Sunday afternoon, the same men appeared before over 700 citizens of Rock Hill assembled in Aeolian hall with the same message, inviting them to come and bring their friends to the Armory during the dates of March 18 and 23.

Auto Workers Submit Model Contract To the Fisher Body Co.

Cleveland, Ohio.—A proposed working agreement embodying many of the features which the American Federation of Labor believes essential to peace and progress in the automobile industry has been submitted to the Fisher Body Corporation, a General Motors subsidiary, by United Automobile Workers' Federal Union local here, affiliated with the A. F. of L. The contract has not yet been signed.

It provides that when new jobs "are created or occur in the respective departments, the oldest employe laid off shall be the first to be re-employed." Another clause asserts that employes who have given long and faithful service and who have become unable to handle heavy work "will be given preference to such light work in their line as they may be able to do."

An annual minimum wage of \$1,560 for unskilled workers, and \$1,820 for skilled workers is asked, as is a thirty-hour week of five six-hour days. Wages of time and one-half for Saturday work and double wages for Sunday work would be required.

Other clauses call for arbitration of all difficulties which can not be

settled by mutual agreement of the company and the union, and reinstatement with full pay for all time lost by the discharge of any employe who may be judged to have been unjustly discharged.

Textile Hosiery Workers Rally At Rock Hill, S. C.

ROCK HILL, S. C., Feb. 19.—Union organizers addressed a rally of textile and hosiery workers at Union Hall here Saturday. The speakers included F. L. Widenhouse, of Concord, representative of the Federation of Hosiery Workers; H. D. Lisk, of Concord, organizer for the United Textile Workers; and C. Lester Adams, of Charlotte, also a representative of the Federation of Hosiery Workers.

RALEIGH.—With approximately 300 delegates from local unions throughout the State present, the State Highway Council, met in Raleigh last Sunday. The following officers were elected and will serve for the ensuing year: C. C. Mimms, Whiteville, President; S. G. Galloway, Rocky Mount, vice president; C. M. Beasley, Louisburg, secretary-treasurer; and George A. Brinkley, Sgt.-at-arms Fayetteville. R. R. Lawrence, Paul R. Christopher, S. H. Scott, and T. A. Wilson were principal speakers.

President Addresses American Labor

(Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, made the following statement to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, following their recent conferences:)

"I have been particularly glad to receive and discuss common problems with the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, and to congratulate them upon their enlarged executive council, bringing into co-operation more units of the labor movement. The American Federation of Labor has been helpful and co-operative in the development of the programs for the rehabilitation of industry and of our economic life over the past two years, and I hope their co-operation will continue active and effective.

"Co-operation with labor as well as with business is essential to continuation of the programs we are working out for a more stable and more satisfactory industrial life in this country. I have on a number of occasions urged the necessity, as well as the soundness of furthering the principle of collective bargaining as between labor and management. This is my personal point of view, but it is also set forth in the National Industrial Recovery Act.

"In pursuance of this policy as referred to, we must fully understand the difficulties attendant to its accomplishment by reason of the absence, in many respects of a disciplined order both as it refers to labor and industry. Notwithstanding this, it must be obvious that the best possible results in rehabilitating our economic structure, is to be found in the well-organized and highly developed organization of both employes and employers, with their relationship resting upon the foundation of conciliation and arbitration and the full and frank recognition of the unescapable community of interests to be found in the industry itself.

"The Federal Government has indicated through the National Industrial Recovery Act its desire that labor and management organize for the purposes of collective bargaining and the furtherance of industrial peace and prosperity, but the Federal Government cannot, of course, undertake to compel employes and employers to organize. It should be a voluntary organization.

"To you of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, permit me to very definitely assure you of my appreciation and recognition of the Federation in the work of rehabilitating industry and in the protection of our country itself. No one can disregard the importance of the American Federation of Labor as one of the great and outstanding institutions of the country. It has been my purpose to recognize this in every practical and logical way, and I have no intention of changing my point of view.

"My impression is that our difficulties are found largely in the heretofore totally unorganized field, both as it affects employers and employes. In such cases we must have patience.

Finally, permit me to say that we are seeking to promote peace, co-operation and understanding in all of the industries of the United States between labor and management, to the end that we can eliminate the inequities and institute practical and scientific stabilization for the common good of all those engaged in industry as well as for the nation itself."

UNION NEWS

BY HARRY BOATE

In glancing through the February issue of Typographical Journal so many interesting articles were discovered it has been decided to pass some of it on in weekly effort to present something readable. For instance: In Pretoria, Union of South Africa, the man in charge of the public printing is Major J. J. Kruger. (He may be a blood relative of Gen. Paul Kruger, of Boer War fame.) Mr. Kruger employs some 500 persons, none of whom are black. While admitting that matters in the printing industry of his country have been very difficult the past few years, he says there has been noticeable improvement. For example, in May, 1933, there were 452 journeymen printers unemployed, whole on June 20, 1934, the number had been reduced to 139. In speaking of economic relations between employer and employe in South Africa, Mr. Kruger has this to say, according to The British and Colonial Printer, London, England:

"In South Africa printers have one great advantage that printers in no other country have. The printing industry there has been governed by a national agreement since 1919. Every alternate year the employers and employes meet and enter upon an agreement covering wages, conditions of employment, and practically every phase of the industry. The meeting of these two sides takes place through the National Industrial Council of the Printing and Newspaper industries of South Africa, the Newspaper Press Union of South Africa, and the South African Typographical Union. The wages fixed by the council are compulsory throughout the industry (whether the employing printer is a member of the federation or not) under the Industrial Conciliation Act.

"The printing industry," he added, "is the best organized of all South African industries, and, as a matter of fact, it was the first industry to operate under the Industrial Conciliation Act. The act came into operation in 1924, but the printing industry has had an agreement since 1919. The Typographical Union embraces every branch of the industry, and the federation employs 100 per cent union labor.

"In South Africa no provision is made for the relief of the unemployed, any such relief depending entirely upon the individual industry. For the four years 1930-1933 approximately 147,000 pounds was paid out in unemployment relief; 73,000 pounds, or 50 per cent of that sum, was paid from a joint unemployment fund to which employers and employes contributed. The benefits received by the men are one county each week for a period of 13 weeks each half year.

"Another innovation made in the last national agreement, to alleviate to some extent the hardships of unemployment, was that instead of taking two weeks' leave per annum, the men should get four weeks' compulsory holiday and draw from the employer full pay for the first two weeks, and from the joint unemployment fund half pay for the remaining two weeks. The scheme had a very beneficial effect.

"The industry in South Africa finds employment for about 10,000 people. There are a number of large printing houses, but there are also a great many of what are commonly known as 'bedroom' printers."

(The British pound is valued at somewhere between \$4.50 and \$5.00 in American money.—Ed.)

Since the printing fraternity in South Africa first entered into these agreements in 1919, and the later agreement sprang into being in 1924, it will be observed that our own NRA was not merely a mushroom growth, but apparently took root either from this or some similar agreement of which we have all along been in dense ignorance. However, the idea seems good, else it would not be spreading so rapidly as it has in recent years.

Employers in the United States might well consider this, and help along in the efforts being made by organized labor to make life's pathway easier for all, rather than standing in the way and blocking traffic.

Another item in Typographical Journal says a bank clerk in Toronto, Canada, was found guilty of embezzling \$50,700. His "salary" was \$2,000 a year. The judge in sentencing the prisoner scolded the bank officials for "failure to give proper moral support" and, incidentally, a decent wage.

LEGISLATIVE MIRROR

RALEIGH, Feb. 19.—Following the recent hearing of the Highway workers who appeared before Appropriation, Roads and Salaries and Fees committees at the State Capital recently, officials of the State Federation of Labor and Legislative committee have been conferring with members of the committees and the General Assembly on legislation affecting the pay of State employes in general and the highway workers in particular. It is thought that all State employes may receive added compensation for the last six months of the present biennium. Chief interest, however, probably lies in the legislation for the next biennium, in which it is hoped that permanent laws will be enacted setting forth a standard and satisfactory wage rate for various classifications of highway employes. Interest is at high pitch and the highway unions in all sections of the State are keeping closely in touch with developments and lending assistance.

The occupational disease bill (H. B. 293), under which such disease will become compensable under the workmen's Compensation Act, has been introduced by Representative Ernest Gardner of Cleveland. Action on this measure is expected momentarily.

Another bill affecting the Workmen's Compensation Act has been introduced by Senator Powell of White-

ville. This bill will allow the State to write all insurance coming under the Act and will reduce rates and add to the effectiveness of the law.

Representative Scholl of Mecklenburg will introduce the bill designed to outlaw the "yellow dog" contract this week. This bill, of course, has the endorsement of all organized labor and is expected to be enacted, but may require a fight.

Many other labor measures will be introduced this week in which organized labor is deeply interested, many of them being sponsored by Organized Labor. The Legislative committee has been busily engaged in the tasks of drawing up and examining various bills, many of which are ready for presentation at a time agreed upon as most advantageous in view of certain conditions known best to members of the committee.

A hot fight is being quietly waged over the Child Labor Amendment. Certain interests are spreading malicious misinformation by which they hope to prevent passage of the amendment. In the face of this fact, passage of this law will come about only as a result of sustained work on the part of friends of the measure, which includes members of Organized Labor and some twenty other organizations in the State. It is to be hoped the Amendment will be ratified by North Carolina.

LABOR RACKETEERING IN CHARLOTTE CONDEMNED BY CENTRAL LABOR UNION

Racketeering in the name of Organized Labor in Charlotte in the advertising, publicity and co-operative field brought forth the following resolution, which was unanimously passed Tuesday, January 21, by Central Labor Union:

"Resolved, That the Charlotte Labor Journal is recognized in Charlotte as the only official paper of this section, and that merchants and business concerns are warned against outsiders soliciting advertisements or funds in the name of Labor, unless they have 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."

CHANGE IN PRESENT TEXTILE CODE IS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT WHICH EXTENDS "FREEZING PERIOD"

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The President has approved an amendment to the code for fair competition for the cotton textile industry extending the so-called "freezing period" until 30 days after the work assignments board has submitted its recommendations for a permanent plan which deals directly with the "stretch-out" system and the work load.

By executive order of October 16 last year, the work assignments board was created and rules and regulations established for handling work assignments in the industry until February 1. On December 27, last, another executive order gave the board until a reasonable time after January 1, to submit its recommendations. Under the new provision work assignments shall not be increased until 30 days after the work assignment board has submitted its permanent plan for handling the machine load issue, one of the vital questions that figured in the textile strike of last September.

The amendment stresses that the number of looms, frames or other machines required to be tended by any class of employes shall not be increased where the character of the raw material, yarn, construction of the cloth, preparatory processes, type of equipment used, or character of finish or put-up, is not changed. Where such changes do occur the number of machines tended by the

employees may be increased or decreased in such manner as will not increase the amount of effort required of the worker.

Where, during the period referred to, a mill resumes the manufacture of any specific product which it has made within six months prior to September 21, 1934, then the work load formerly used on the product shall be the guide in determining the proper work assignment.

Where on September 21, a new style of yarn or cloth or any other new type of product was in course of introduction or thereafter introduced into a mill or finishing plant, only a tentative work load may be established and this to determine the proper work load.

The amendment concludes with the statement that prior to one month after the report to the President as to a permanent plan of work assignments the cotton textile work assignment board may investigate any assignment increased since July 1, last, upon petition of any employe or his representative.

CHARLOTTE CENTRAL LABOR UNION HAS GOOD ATTENDANCE AT REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING TUESDAY NIGHT

The meeting of Central Labor Union Tuesday night was well attended, with President Alba and Vice President Kiser splitting time in the chair. Secretary Boger was absent, but Recording Secretary Boate was on the job and handled both ends. Reports of locals struck an average as to working conditions; the Label committee reported progress, and, for a wonder Chairman Fullerton, of the Grievance committee reported a clean slate; Mrs. Fullerton, of the Woman's Label League, made a report for that organization, and stated that at the next meeting the League was giving a "shower" to fit up a dining room at the hall, of which more will be given out at a future date; Lacy Ranson talked on the exposition at the Armory-Auditorium in

March, which is being sponsored by Federal Labor Union, and the delegates promised support in the sale of tickets; three members of the Teachers' local made wonderful talks, appealing for support of the workers in the school tax election, which was promised, as this is a matter in which organized labor has always taken a keen interest; President Alba was given a vote of confidence and endorsement of the Labor Movement in Charlotte should he see fit to again become a candidate for Councilman honors. He has served the citizens of Charlotte faithfully and well for two terms, and Labor has fasted with his hands.

The meeting adjourned about 10:30, and good will and harmony was the order of the meeting.

NOW HERE'S A RED HOT ONE TO PONDER OVER — COMES FROM BESSEMER CITY, N. C.

Bessemer City, N. C., February 18, 1935.

Dear Editor:—Was glad to see our article last week in your paper. I am proud of your paper and am always looking for it for true knowledge of the movement that is going on, which is of vital interest to the workers. I have always thought the trouble with labor is not because we do not have any sense but because we do not use what we have got. But I notice that the mill heads are having some trouble that resembles ours, there is some of them that I believe would do the right thing if it were not for the rest of them; there seems, according to their views, that there is about ten or twenty per cent of them that will not work with the rest of them for the betterment of themselves, they call them all kinds of names such as cut-throat competition.

We call those kind in our ranks as Scabs. Why do we have these? Because we are not organized and working on an even and a balanced basis. A basis which is carefully worked out that will let all have a square deal. Why do the mill owners have the trouble with some of their number? I believe that one of the biggest things that caused their trouble is because there has been no organization of their workers. In most cases where one mill or company takes an order cheaper than the other is because he can get it produced at less cost than the other fellow. Now he can not get cotton cheaper, so he has to hand that to his help, he expects to stretchout and cut wages to make up the difference in price, he does not intend to lose anything himself. Now if labor was on a standard basis they would not try to underbid one another; but the way it is now as has been there is always some one that will take your job for less. Sometimes he can run it and sometimes he just makes a bad mess of it, and the rest have to suffer for it. Now if cotton was 8 cents in New Orleans and 10 cents in New York, there would be a big howl from the one who raises it. Now let us go back to the mill officials, they do not want each company to deal separately as it pleases with the market regardless of what effect it might have on the

others, and they do have an organization and most all of them work together to have a representative to look out for their interest and to get all advantages they can from the government. But they say their help ought not to do that, they say that we should deal with them separately that they do not want to do business with an outsider that they want to talk things over with their own help. They think they can out-talk us. They don't want us to have an advisor and council to plead our case, yet they employ the best and highest priced ones for their council. I myself worked for a company here for many years and the president of the company made us a speech after he had cut our wages several times and he said he had not made a nickel in four years, and he had lost sleep and money, scratched his eyes tried to get tears to come in then; said he did feel so sorry for us that he had most broke himself trying to give us a living, but, if we would stick to him, he would stick to us. I was scarry that I had worked for him four years, and had not made him a nickel, but in a few months they began to install more machinery that mill and buy several new cars and then bought three more mills and still our wages were being eased off every week or two. I began to see the reason for the speech. Labor was still a little stirred from the Reds which had been through. But some of us fools kept sticking on, and they stuck to us until our belly stuck to our backbone; then they let us drop. I think that the mill owners see that we are not going to put up with what we have been, so they come with the company union to us: "Look out boys a negro in the woodpile." I like to have our grievance between capital and labor settled by arbitration, a committee of equal number of workers and capital and the government set in and judge. I admit that Labor might be in excess one way and capital in excess the other way, but when they talk things over most times they find justice and common sense between the two extremes. This is from Bessemer City Local 2000.

Wish to hear from the others. Let us keep moving forward not backward.

—B. C. 2000.

The long awaited McDonald-Lumkin plan by which it is hoped to eliminate the Sales Tax was last week presented to the Finance committee and has received much favorable mention. Labor's Legislative committee is studying the proposed substitute and will in a few days announce whether it will support the substitute as opposed to the Sales Tax feature of the revenue bill.

RALEIGH (SFLNS)—At a meeting of highway employes at Cary,

near Raleigh, numbers of workers expressed a desire to become members of the American Federation of Labor. Interest was such that arrangements are being made for the early installation of a Local of these workers.

WILMINGTON (SFLNS)—Installation of a progressive local union of highway workers was effected here Friday night, February 5, with President R. R. Lawrence of the State Federation of Labor the master of ceremonies.