



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 ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1935

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READER

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THE ARDOR OF CENTRAL BODY NOT DAMPENED BY ELEMENTS WHICH PREVAILED TUESDAY

The weather was bad and the attendance only an average, but excellent, when all things were taken into consideration, and the spirit of organized labor movement was not dampened by the elements. The delegates came forward with good, bad and indifferent reports. Some 100 per cent some 90, 80 and on down to the 50 mark. The textile delegates reports reply proved the most interesting, for they showed the working of the "gloved hand" against organized labor. Put the bright spot came in this line of endeavor when Paul C. Christopher, of Shelby, president of the State Textile Union and a vice president of the State Federation of Labor, made a talk that showed that while in some places the stretchout and the lay-off prevailed to hold the workers in abeyance, there were places in the Old North State where the workers were really being recognized and reckoned with as a bargaining factor. Mr. Christopher, while a plain speaker, deals not in oratory, but in facts and figures, and he added to his already large list of admirers, many friends by his talk.

Mr. S. A. Scott, Tobacco Workers national representative, who is a visitor in Charlotte, also addressed the body and gave a few facts and figures that were amazing regarding the "Big Four," and also gave some encouraging estimates, showing the gain of the workers in his line of industry. He is one man who has come our way lately who carries statistics in his mind and at his fingertips.

The Allied Printing Trades movement was reported by Brother A. E. Amys as having been culminated, and that within two weeks this body would be functioning, three printing concerns already having signed for the allied label. The Typographical, Pressmen and Bookbinders will compose the trio.

The meeting ran the gamut in regular order, and the grievance committee, and the legislative committee, along with the label committee reports made up a meeting that well passed the adjourning hour.

Organized Labor in Charlotte, has never formed the councilmanic plan of eleven, but if it must be, as Senator Bell so wills it, then Central Labor Union has asked that one man be taken from each ward, and this desire has been percolating into Raleigh.

There was a telegram sent to Mecklenburg representatives asking that the Sanitary department be removed from under civil service. This passed unanimously.

The meetings these days are "pepping up," and as one of the national speakers said at the meeting Tuesday night: "I have heard of the Charlotte Central Labor Union in meetings in almost every section of the United States, and all the reports evidenced the fact that you have real meetings discussing topics and doing things that tend for the upward trend of the labor movement."

As usual, these days Albee and Kiser alternated in the chair, while Boate and Ranson secretaried, the latter pinch-hitting for Secretary Boger, who is on night duty at this time.

Go to the polls on Saturday, March 23, and vote for the school supplement. You owe it to the youth of Charlotte, and to those who instruct them.

Labor Institute Durham Meet Is Postponed

DURHAM, March 11.—The State-wide Labor Institute that was to be held here March 15-16-17 has been postponed for a few weeks because of the fact that some of the main speakers had engagements that would conflict with these dates. It is announced that the dates of the Institute will be announced later and that some of the most outstanding speakers in America will be on the program.

SHELBY WOMEN'S LABEL LEAGUE WAS INSTALLED FRIDAY NIGHT; OFFICERS GIVEN OBLIGATION

The Shelby Woman's Union Label League held its first regular meeting last Friday night, March 8th, at which time the officers for the ensuing year were installed. Mrs. W. E. McKamey, president of the Charlotte Label League, conducted the installation, and the following constitute their roster of officers:

Mrs. Ben Lybrand, president; Mrs. J. E. Kimbrell, first vice president; Mrs. F. A. Senter, financial secretary and corresponding secretary; Mrs. E. G. Smith, sergeant at arms; Mrs. J. S. Waite, doorkeeper.

Two new members were given the obligation, which gives the Shelby League a very fine start with 56 members. A great deal of enthusiasm is in evidence upon the part of the

ladies composing the new league in Shelby, and we wish them every success in the work they have undertaken.

All the officers of the Charlotte Women's Union Label League went to the meeting in Shelby, as well as several other members. The president of the Shelby League expressed appreciation of the visit of the sister and brother members from Charlotte, and after the business session, an enjoyable social time was had. Delicious refreshments were served.

The Shelby League and those who have co-operated with them are to be congratulated upon the attractive hall given over to the activities of the league, also upon the well-equipped kitchen which the ladies are making very good use of in connection with their work.

Allied Printing Trades Council Is Organized

On last Sunday afternoon at the Hotel Charlotte a meeting was held by the printers, pressmen and bookbinders, which resulted in the formation of an allied printing Trades Council. Pay Nixon president of Charlotte Typographical Union was chosen president, and R. K. Amyx, of the Pressmen's Union, secretary-treasurer. The attendance from the three crafts was encouraging. Delegates from the three trades were R. J. White, Ray Nixon and Hugh Lykes of the printers; R. K. Amyx, L. M. Phelps, and R. L. Yohey of the pressmen; and Herbert Webb, Coleman Davis and Foy Todd of the bookbinders.

Hugh M. Sykes, of the printers, was made chairman of the Label committee. Another meeting of the council will be held at the Hotel Charlotte next Sunday.

Strike Threat Comes From Textile Union

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Definite hints of a new textile strike came today from within the ranks of the United Textile Workers.

The executive board of the United Textile Union has been summoned to meet next Wednesday to consider immediate procedure.

Angered particularly by the situation in Georgia, where 3,000 employees of the Callaway mills are reported on strike; Francis J. Gorman, organization director of the union, declared in a statement:

"The strike settlement (of last September) was definite enough in its promises. It must now be equally definite in performance."

Gorman and his associates were aroused also by what they termed the failure of the Textile Labor Relations board to enforce its decisions, and by what union leaders charge is consistent violation of section 7-A of the recovery act.

Declining to comment on reports that the textile workers already had completed plans for another general strike in the spring, Gorman said in his statement, "The executive council will not declare another strike before consulting with the President and giving him a detailed explanation."

The union label stands for the solidarity of the Labor Movement.

Go to the polls on Saturday, March 23, and vote for the school supplement. You owe it to the youth of Charlotte, and to those who instruct them.

Demand the label on your cigarette.

Labor In Favor Of The S. C. Solons Raising Their Pay

SPARTANBURG, S. C., March 12.—Resolutions adopted by the Spartanburg Central Labor union urging members of the legislature to vote themselves expense money and to rush passage of labor legislation today were forwarded to Columbia by officials.

The resolutions were adopted last night at a meeting of 300 members who heard addresses by L. E. Brookshire, president of the State Federation of Labor, and Rep. E. C. Godfrey.

SCHOOL VOTE

PERTINENT COMMENT ON TIMELY TOPICS
BY HARRY BOATE

On Saturday, March 23, 1935, the voters of Charlotte will be given the opportunity of expressing their choice on whether or not they are willing to spend a few more dollars in tax for the purpose of better supporting the system of public schools, which they have builded so successfully, after many years of struggle and effort. To allow these schools to go down because of greed, lack of interest, or any other reason, is unjust both to the present generation and the generation which are to follow.

Here are a few school statistics which may help you in making up your mind on what to do in the matter:

At the present time the enrollment in Charlotte schools is 12,423 white and 5,565 colored, a total of 17,988. Ten years ago the total attendance was 8,005 white and 2,991 colored pupils, a total of 11,996. This shows an increase in ten years of 5,997, or 50 per cent.

The Charlotte schools are now endeavoring to properly equip this large number of pupils for the battle of life with a decreasing supply of teachers, and a lack of funds to pay a decent wage to those who have stayed to fight the battle, many of them because of their love for the schools. Here is the pay we give them for their work: White teachers, maximum \$60, minimum \$46.66; colored teachers receive—maximum \$66, minimum \$36. These figures are the monthly wage on a 12-month basis.

Teachers with no previous teaching experience now begin at this minimum salary. In the white schools this salary is increased \$20 each year until it reaches the maximum of \$720 after eight years of successful teaching. In the negro schools the increase is \$16 a year and reaches the maximum of \$560 after eight years.

Proposed salaries for teachers if the supplement is voted and the ninth month is added to the present term. These figures are on a 12-month basis: White teachers—Maximum \$100; minimum \$77.80; colored teachers—maximum \$77.80; minimum \$55.83. Eight years of actual teaching is required for a teacher to reach the maximum of \$100 per month in the white schools and \$77.80 in the negro schools.

Compare this with salaries paid teachers in other representative cities of the south. Maximum salary of high school teacher per month for 12 months—Charleston, S. C., male \$208.33, female \$150; Columbia, S. C., \$150; Knoxville, Tenn., \$148.75; Chattanooga, Tenn., \$166.66; Norfolk, Va., male \$144.33, female \$131.25; Richmond, Va., \$166.80; Roanoke, Va., \$177.08. Charlotte is now the only city in the south with more than 50,000 population, outside of North Carolina, that has a school term of only eight months.

The child going through the Charlotte schools as they are now operated loses one month each year for eleven years, and loses the twelfth grade, a total of twenty months. On the basis of our present eight-month term this is equivalent to the loss of two and one-half school years.

The money derived from the proposed 25-cent tax levy plus the 15 per cent increase anticipated from the state is to be used in increasing the pay of the teachers now employed, and the employment of additional teachers to relieve overcrowded conditions in schools now operating, and to supply teachers for three new buildings.

A tax rate of 25 cents on present property valuation will yield \$262,500.

A reduction in real estate valuation of 15 per cent, optional with the assessors, was authorized by the legislature of 1931.

A reduction in real estate valuation of 33 1-3 per cent was required by the legislature of 1933.

A home that recently cost \$5,000 is probably on that tax books at \$3,000. The tax on that home would be \$7.50.

25 cents on the property valuation means \$2.50 on \$1,000 property valuation.

An educated child is more law-abiding than one with no education, and children grow to maturity, if we educate them we will have a better class of citizens than if we let them grow up uneducated. Again, if we permit our schools to go down we may have to build more jails, and we know schools make a more cheerful looking group of buildings than do jails.

Go to the polls and exercise your rights as citizens. Whether or not you have children, vote YES.

Rock Hill Has A Great Open Meet Sunday

ROCK HILL, S. C., March 11. Editor Labor Journal:

The textile and hosiery workers of Rock Hill, S. C., had another great open meeting last Saturday at 3 P. M. "Red" Lisk, Lester Adams, F. L. Widenhouse, and others made talks. Lloyd Hopkins, of Albemarle, was also one of the speakers, and they all brought the message of the necessity of organization, and holding steadfast the organization before the large assemblage.

On Sunday, March 23, there will be a big labor parade in Rock Hill. They will then gather at the hall for a big Home Coming Mass Meeting, in honor of one of the old charter members of the first Rock Hill textile local, M. Gregory, who placed the first charter in 1917. John Peele, outstanding South Carolina labor leader and Francis Gorman are expected to be present and make talks.

Special meetings are being held weekly to increase the membership of the textile and hosiery locals, and great gains are being made.

A. G. K.

Go to the polls on Saturday, March 23, and vote for the school supplement. You owe it to the youth of Charlotte, and to those who instruct them.

Labels may come and labels may go, but the Union Label will go on forever.

The Union Label is the insignia of the great army of American Labor.

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SAD STORY OF WEALTHY CITY STINTING ON EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES THRU CORPORATE GREED—GEORGE KNAPP WRITES

By GEORGE L. KNAPP Washington, D. C. (I.L.N.S.)

If Liggett & Myers influence the schools of Durham by hanging up before the teachers the lure of more lucrative employment, R. J. Reynolds Co. sways the schools of Winston Salem in much simpler fashion. It uses a meat-ax, and seems to have a preference for that tool in other controversies.

It has been told before in these articles how, a few years ago, Reynolds smashed the movement to unionize its plant by firing everyone who even listened to the union preaching. Labor officials in the district estimate the number of persons who lost their jobs with Reynolds during that row as from 2,000 to 2,500—and they never came back. Once fired, never rehired is the Reynolds' motto. In a town where almost half the wage earners are in one plant, the displeasure of the managers of that plant can throw a blanket of fear over the whole community.

Reynolds not merely dominates the schools, it stints and impoverishes them. Winston-Salem is popularly believed to be one of the healthiest of the smaller cities of the United States. The magazine, Fortune, which has a keen eye for such things, reported that Winston-Salem had more than 50 multimillionaires—which is a pretty high percentage for a town of not quite 80,000 people. So far as can be learned, all of them are tobacco millionaires, members of the Reynolds family or influential associates, like Bowman Gray and S. Clay Williams. And the tobacco industry is the one large industry of the United States that prospered more during the depression than it did before.

But none of these millions seem to trickle into the Winston-Salem schools. In the report of the State Superintendent of North Carolina for the years 1931-32, a column in the table of funds available for current expenses of the schools is given to "philanthropic funds."

RICH DON'T HELP SCHOOLS

Not one dollar is listed in this column to Winston-Salem. Somebody contributed \$200 to keep the rural schools of that county going, but not in Winston-Salem itself. With teachers' salaries cut to the bone and tobacco profits piled higher than ever before, not one of the Reynolds' millionaires put up so much as a white chip to meet the daily costs for the children of their city.

The United States Office of Education has worked out figures showing the amount spent per day on each pupil in several hundred cities and towns of the country. After studying this list carefully, it seemed that Wilkes-Barre, Pa., had enough things in common with Winston-Salem to make a comparison between them rather valuable. They are about the same size; Wilkes-Barre a little larger. Both are preeminently manufacturing towns; and if Wilkes-Barre has a heavy sideline of coal, Winston-Salem is the commercial capital of a pretty good area. Also, no one has reported 50, or 30, or 20 multimillionaires in Wilkes-Barre.

How do these quite similar communities treat their schools? Wilkes-Barre spends 65 cents per pupil per day on her schools. Winston-Salem spends 24 cents per pupil per day on her schools. And Winston-Salem is by far the richer community of the two; and North Carolina, as a state, has

shown a keener interest in education than almost any other part of the South. But there are the figures, to speak for themselves.

DARING TEACHERS PUNISHED

As for the way of Reynolds with the public schools, the case of James M. Shields will suffice. Shields taught in Winston-Salem schools for 13 years, and part of that time he was a principal. This manifestly rules out any question of his ability as a teacher; the authorities thought him thoroughly capable, else they would not have kept and promoted him. There is good reason, indeed, to believe that he was an unusually effective teacher, for he never concealed his strong liberal tendencies.

But at last Mr. Shields wrote a novel, with the suggestive title of "Just Plain Larnin'." He described the life in a Southern tobacco town, dominated by the "DeVries Company," whose methods bore an oddly close resemblance to those of F. J. Reynolds Co. In fact, the drawing was so close and so accurate that it created a regular tempest in the Winston-Salem teapot, and Shields was fired with loud denunciations and no benefit of clergy at all.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION STOPPED

An article written after his dismissal says, in part: "In Winston-Salem, a tobacco magnate's ire was so roused at the sight of a group of 'niggers' daring to play tennis that all physical education was promptly eliminated from local high schools, both white and colored. Another tobacco company official, acting chairman of the school board, on a recent good-will tour of the public school buildings, stated that: "In my business, going about among the hands and making them feel you're interested in them, is just as effective as handing out a raise in wages."

INDEPENDENCE IS FENAZLED

The old trick, and he saw no reason why it should not work on teachers as well as on factory workers. "His teachers," remarks Shields, "had only that year taken a 50 per cent salary cut!"

Other instances could be given. Teachers who some years ago formed an organization which looked at least in the direction of some independence were dismissed. Nor does interference stop with public schools.

"At Winston-Salem last April," says Shields in another place—and there is plenty of corroboration for his statements, "R. W. McDonald, young professor of education at Salem College, sought the Democratic nomination for the legislature on an anti-seas tax, pro-schools platform. . . . Local tobacco and textile magnates threatened withdrawal of pledged contributions to the college unless he resigned his candidacy, to the end that McDonald had to choose between his campaign and his job."

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LEGISLATIVE MIRROR

RALEIGH, March 12.—Friday morning a public hearing will be held on the bill introduced by Representative Scholl of Charlotte, outlawing the "yellow dog" contract and setting forth certain restrictions regarding labor injunctions. No Southern State has passed this law but there seems to be a fair chance of North Carolina taking the lead in this progressive legislation. . . . At this writing the State-wide Boiler Inspection Bill is still on the Senate calendar, with what seems a fair chance of passage. This bill has passed the House . . . The Plumbers Bill came up in the Senate Monday night and considerable opposition developed from the rural counties. A motion to adjourn carried the bill over for consideration later. . . . Labor's Occupational Disease bill has passed the House and today is on the favorable calendar in the Senate with a good chance of passage. Considerable work is being done to untangle the highway workers situation. It is believed before the Legislature adjourns something tangible will have been est up for these people. C. M. Beasley, secretary of the State Highway Workers Council, and Mr. Cavanaugh, of Goldsboro, have been here assisting in this matter. . . . A great deal of hard work has been put forth for school teachers and other state employes. . . . A terrific fight has been waged for the Child Labor Amendment by a number of large organizations. . . . Because of selfish influences this has been an uphill fight from the beginning. It has been a fight of right against might. . . . Senators and Representatives report that their mail is increasing. One member of the House said he received more mail the past few days than he had received in his entire lifetime. The people back home seem to be telling their Legislators what their wishes are in the matters of legislation. There was a time when a Legislator could come back home but such is not the case any more.

WHO PAYS THE TAXES?

OWNERS OF RENTAL PROPERTY OR THE RENTER?

To the Editor of The Journal:

Did you know that the crowd who forced the sales taxes on the poor people of Charlotte is the same crowd now spending hundreds of dollars fighting the school supplement. They are not satisfied with throwing the burden off their own shoulders on to the shoulders of the poor people but they would deny them a higher education.

Taxes have been greatly reduced on real estate in Charlotte and those owning rental properties are fighting against their own interests when they fight the school tax supplement.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

By WILLIAM GREEN
President, American Federation of Labor

WASHINGTON, March 6.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, issued the following statement mourning the death of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes:

"The men and women of Labor throughout the nation mourn the death of Justice Holmes.

"He was an uncompromising liberal. Because of the advanced and liberal interpretation which he placed upon the Constitution, he inspired the masses of the people with new hope and with a new and more comprehensive understanding of the flexibility of the organic law of the Nation.

"Justice Holmes occupied a large place in the hearts and affections of the working people and all their friends in the United States. He was beloved as a great judge possessed of a social vision, a great heart, and a keen, penetrating, analytical mind. He stands in a class by himself because our Nation has produced but one who, serving in a judicial position, has been a consistent and uncompromising liberal.

"All of Labor is deeply grieved over the passing of Justice Holmes."