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The ONLY REALLY INDEPENDENT WEEKLY in Mecklenburg County

For a Weekly, Its Readers Represent the LARGEST BUYING POWER in Charlotte

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

# The Charlotte Labor Journal

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Truthful, Honest, Impartial

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

VOL. V.—No. 16.

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1935

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READER

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## PLANS FOR STATE CONVENTION OF FEDERATION OF LABOR MEET IN DURHAM ARE GOING FORWARD

Plans are going steadily forward for the twenty-ninth annual convention of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor, which meets Thursday, August 29, in the Washington Duke Hotel, Durham, E. L. Sandefur, the secretary-treasurer, announces receipt of a large number of credentials indicating good attendance. The secretary-treasurer says this convention may not have quite as many delegates as attended the banner meeting last year, but it is highly probable that more local unions will be represented at the coming meet than any previous year. Last year interest was at a high pitch because of many new unions having been organized and the NKA was then considered a means of giving organized workers new rights and new opportunities. Then, too, there was the possibility of a nationwide strike of textile workers which actually was called a few days later our convention adjourned.

It is reported that the State Federation of Labor has more affiliated local unions at present than at any time in its history. The drive for a 100 per cent organization has been quite effective and this campaign will be continued with renewed vigor following the convention. Many inquiries and expressions of interest are reaching the secretary's office, and

recommendations will be made to the forthcoming convention which, it is hoped, will lead to a greatly enlarged and more effective state labor movement.

R. R. Lawrence, president of the organization, announces that among the speakers who have accepted invitation to address the convention, are Senator Robert R. Reynolds, Representative Harold D. Cooley, State Senators Swearingen, of Cabarrus, Burrus of Guilford, and Representatives W. L. Lumpkin and Ralph W. McDonald, the latter a probable candidate for Governor.

Other prominent national and state governmental leaders have been invited, but acceptance depends much upon the early adjournment of Congress, most of those invited expressing an earnest desire to attend if possible to get away from Washington, and other centers of activity.

This convention is expected to see the largest number of visitors in history, the meeting being centrally located, and Durham itself being well organized. Officers of the Federation stress the fact that the meetings are usually open to all members of organized labor, whether a delegate or not. All members of American Federation of Labor unions are invited and urged to attend.

## LABOR DAY IN CHARLOTTE

Don't forget the Labor Day gathering at Bryant Park on Monday, September 2. Francis Gorman, textile international

official, will speak and probably other Labor celebrities will be present. This is going to be a real LABOR GATHERING with the "frills" left out. Get your basket—bring your friends. Gorman speaks at 10 A. M.

## STRIKE AT QUEEN CITY PTG. CO. 98 PER CENT EFFECTIVE AFTER A BATTLE OF OVER 3 MONTHS

After more than three months, the strike at the plant of the Queen City Printing Company is still 98 per cent effective and the fact that one Grady Hemby has seen fit to desert the ranks of the men who have heretofore stood for him at the risk of their own jobs is not worthy of mention except that he does not quite make up the remaining 2 per cent.

The fact that only one striker out of forty has seen fit to desert the ranks is evidence of the fact that man has advanced some since the day some 2000 years ago when there was one Judas out of twelve good men and true.

The strikers are well entrenched, having accumulated resources which will enable them to carry on the fight for at least another twelve months, or as long as necessary to gain that for which they struck.

to get in on this strike, having used every means within their power to try to take an active part themselves as well as trying to instill the principles of Communism into the minds of the strikers. To date they have made no progress as far as the strikers are concerned, but they are still a serious menace to them as far as any trouble that might come up in the future is concerned.

The strikers have for the time being discontinued the picket line in order to try and discourage any Communist activities. They see a possibility of becoming involved in very serious trouble as the Communists are daily appearing in front of the plant. The Queen City Printing Company will be notified of these Communist activities by the strikers with a request that the guard in and around the plant be increased until such time as they cease their activities.

X. Y. Z.

## OUR LABOR DAY EDITION

The Journal's Labor Day Edition, which will appear on August 29th, is being well received by the business men of Charlotte. Ever faithful to our merchants, at least those who are in sympathy with the program we are asposing. Co-operation is asked to the end that Labor in this section may have a mouthpiece through which its side of the discussion may be heard.

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## PATRONIZE JOURNAL ADVERTISERS

IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS IN ARREARS SEND IN A CHECK

## NIGHT BASEBALL

WILMINGTON AT CHARLOTTE

August 26, 27, 28

NIGHT GAMES AT 8:30

Bleachers, 40c

(All Tax Paid)

Grand Stand 65c

## PERTINENT COMMENT ON TIMELY TOPICS CHATTING BY HARRY BOATE

For one individual in particular the World War is not yet over. The party referred to is Mr. Grover Bergdoll, member of a wealthy family of Philadelphia, whose money was made from breweries. During the World War, when his number was called for draft into the military service of the United States he failed to report, and for two years the military authorities sought him for evasion, and finally succeeded in their efforts in 1920, after the war was over. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment March 17, 1920.

On May 21, 1920, he received permission to visit his mother and failed to return. He made his way to Germany, where he has since lived, a man without a country. His mother was his assistant in his flight and kept him posted on every move the government made in efforts to recapture him. An effort was made by Americans to kidnap him while in Germany, but one of the would-be abductors was seized and imprisoned and a diplomatic incident developed over the affair.

The years have gone by, his children are in need of an education, and he is now endeavoring to bargain with the United States Government to permit his return and allow his family to reside in the United States. His wife says he is anxious to return and claim a fortune of \$800,000 which the government seized when he fled this country. Apparently he cares as little for the welfare of the country of his birth as he did in years ago, but American money is still good, and American schools are still good, so he will sacrifice a little pride and return to the country he fled in order to get the American dollars and schooling. Yes, we have many in our country today who are as undesirable as is Bergdoll, and it is too bad we cannot get rid of them, but we will let the government settle the case, for they have all the facts needed with which to decide. This may be a warning to others who think money will do anything they wish.

Over in Moscow, Russia, the Communists are holding a convention and Earl Bowler, general secretary of that party in the United States, predicts Fascism in this country in order to protect the toiling masses from becoming victims of terror and atrocities such as have been visited upon Germany. Now that this particular individual is known, also his attitude toward our system of government, and he can be easily located, it would not be a bad idea to see that he does not return to continue his efforts.

Money is the god of the hour, and now Uncle Sam is investigating certain recent occurrences among members of his official family. The investigation concerns a racket which is being carried on by smuggling aliens into the country, and then bleeding them for money under threat of exposing them for being in the country illegally if they refuse to pay. Truly this is a hard game in which to live, for the devil appears to be holding the whip, and he is not lax in snapping the whip.

Mr. Howard C. Hopson, whom the government has been chasing for some time as a witness in the lobby investigation, has finally been captured and put on the stand for questioning. He has admitted that his business concerns endeavored to gain their point in defeating the utilities bill by controlling the activities of newspapers which favored the bill. Says he: "I saw no advantage in advertising in a paper that accepted the money of a business corporation that was trying to protect its investors and then had editorial writers that had so little knowledge of the situation about which they were writing." If he really thinks the newspapers do not know what they are writing about, he is not so shrewd as we thought he was. Were it not for the wide-awake newspapers of this country we would be in a worse condition than we are. They know many things of great importance long before it ever happens, and because of this knowledge many things do not happen that would be bad for the country and its citizens. All hail to the American newspapers that are conducted in the interests of their readers.

Charlotte promises to be considerably enlightened in the next few days because of the storm which is now brewing between the police department and the civil service commission as a result of the recent incident in the colored section of the city. Some time ago the colored citizens asked for better police protection, and it seems they were not wrong in making their request. These people wish to live quiet and peaceable lives and should be given that privilege.

## DEFEAT MCCORMACK-TYDINGS BILL!

The McCormack-Tydings Bill, which prohibits the criticizing of the use of troops in strikes under penalty of a \$1,000 fine or two years in jail, is an indication of the extent to which some of the warped minds in Congress will go in their effort to take from the American people the right of free speech.

This is the kind of law that will bring a revolution in America. If American people cannot crystallize public sentiment against an undesirable government or the abuse of any of its functions as a means of getting rid of such a government in a constitutional way, then there is nothing left for the American people to do except to resort to violence. Present-day Americans can hang their heads in shame if the McCormack-Tydings Bill becomes a law.

What becomes of our stewardship of the heritage that was left us by our revolutionary forefathers, who were willing to die that America might be free, if we allow such proposed legislation to go unchallenged?

This bill has already passed the United States Senate. Write your Congressman and protest against its passage in the House.

## A. F. L. Fighting The Sales Tax

American Federation of Labor's executive council, in session at Atlantic City early in the week, urged abolition of all state sales taxes at the earliest possible moment.

William Green, president, was instructed by the council to urge affiliated state federations to work for sales tax repeal in states that have such levies, at the next sessions of their legislatures. States that have not levied sales taxes will be urged not to do so.

"These taxes are bearing very heavily upon the laboring people," said Green. "They transfer the burden of relief to the poor—even to the unemployed. Millions of dollars are being collected from people who are unable to pay."

## Labor Day Picnic At Bryant Park Monday, Sept. 2

There is a big time ahead for the Union Labor men and women of Charlotte, and their families at Bryant Park next Monday. All kinds of games, with prizes, a basket picnic, a talk by Francis Gorman at 10 A. M., music, and "what not." Brothers Fulelton and McElice, of the committee in charge of the affair, report plans in the making for a big time. All Union men and their families are urged to on hand before 9 A. M.

## 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."

## PREVAILING WAGE SCALE URGED BY A. F. OF L. ON GOVERNMENT WORK RELIEF AND CONSTRUCTION

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Strikes and other manifestations of unrest among the workers caused by the low wage rates in Works Progress Administration relief projects would be allayed if the Government would pay the prevailing wage rate per hour, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor declared in a statement here issued in connection with the strike of building trades workers in New York City and elsewhere.

This change could be realized, the Council said, by transferring WPA building and construction projects to the Public Works Administration, which pays the prevailing wage on all work coming under its jurisdiction. The recommendation of the Executive Council will be conveyed to President Roosevelt, who is authorized to fix wage rates on projects executed under the \$4,000,000,000 work relief law.

The Council emphasized that the so-called security wage per month on WPA projects would not be disturbed by the prevailing wage rate plan, which only insisted "that the number of hours worked per month by relief workers shall be fixed upon a basis so that the worker would earn the monthly security wage at the hourly prevailing wage rate established in each community."

Strikes Are Feared William Green, president of the A. F. of L., in making public the Executive Council's proposal, predicted nationwide walkouts of Works Progress Administration workers unless the prevailing wage rate was adopted.

"We deplore strikes the same as any one else," Mr. Green said, "and for the people to be engaged in a strike against the Government is a very serious matter. We would like to see it settled, but there are certain policies to which our members must adhere."

Executive Council's Statement Following is the text of the Executive Council's statement clarifying the position of the American Federation of Labor on the work relief wage question:

Representatives of the New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia Building Trades Councils advise that building trades workers in the cities and States named were refusing to work for the so-called security wage provided for relief workers on WPA projects.

"These representatives of skilled building trades workers stated that these workers were convinced that if they accepted the security wage on WPA projects they would lose the prevailing rate of pay when employed by private contractors.

Private Employers Chisel Rates "Norman Blumberg, secretary of the Building Trades Council at Philadelphia, privately and positively stated that private contractors in Philadelphia had served notice upon building trades workers that if they accepted the security wage on WPA projects, said private contractors would demand that they work for lower rates in private construction over which said contractors had control. Mr. Blumberg is submitting affidavits to the president of the American Federation of Labor in confirmation of this report.

Prevailing Wage Held Sacred "In order that the public may correctly understand the action of building trades mechanics in refusing to work for the so-called security wage fixed by the Federal Government on WPA projects they must first appreciate how sacred the building trade workers regard the maintenance of prevailing rates of pay fought for and secured during years of struggle and effort, and how, because of sacrifice and suffering, they jealously guard and protect these built-up wage standards.

Position on Security Wage "The American Federation of Labor is quite willing to accept the monthly security wage for relief workers, including skilled workers.

"We cheerfully accept such security wage at a rate of \$50, \$60, \$70 or \$85 per month. We will gladly and willingly co-operate with the Government in the acceptance and application of any monthly security wage it may decide upon for dependent workers who are upon the relief rolls.

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Insists on Standard Hourly Rate "The American Federation of Labor asks only that the prevailing hourly standard wage rate be maintained in the payment of the monthly security wage. That is, that the number of hours worked per month by relief workers shall be fixed upon a basis so that the worker would earn the monthly security wage at the hourly prevailing wage rate established in each community.

their hourly prevailing wage standards. "New York Prevailing Wage Law "The workers in New York have been taught to believe in, to hold sacred and to maintain the prevailing rates of pay. They think in prevailing wage terms.

"The State law of New York provides that workers employed upon public works in the State of New York, whether on the relief rolls or not, shall be paid the prevailing rates of pay. The same rule applies to all public works projects in the city of New York.

"Because of these facts, the workers are caught between two contending forces—one which requires the payment of the prevailing rates of wages on public work projects in New York and the other which demands that they work for a security wage which is a definite and substantial reduction in pay far below the prevailing rate of wages.

Rates Cut on Slum Clearance Project "Again, it is charged by workers in New York that the announced policy of the WJA is being violated because a slum-clearance building project in New York, which will cost more than \$400,000, is being launched as a WPA project at the lowered security wage rate.

The workers understood when they were employed upon building construction projects costing \$25,000,000 or more it would be under PWA supervision and the workers employed would be paid the prevailing rate of wages.

Hopes Strikes Will Be Avoided "The American Federation of Labor is greatly distressed and deeply concerned over the serious situation which has arisen in the attempted execution of WPA work relief projects. We sincerely wish that strikes could be avoided, that satisfaction could be established and that the highest degree of co-operation could be brought about.

"We are reliably informed that as WPA work relief projects are launched in all the different cities throughout the country the building trades workers will take the same action in these cities as was taken by the workers in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia.

Transfer WPA Projects to PWA "It is sincerely hoped that such a distressing situation can be avoided. "For this reason the Executive Council recommends that all WPA building and construction projects be transferred to the PWA, which follows the rule of paying the prevailing rate of wages for all work coming under its supervision and administration."

## Durham Labor Is Preparing For State Convention

The arrangements committee of the Durham Central Labor Union, host organization to the twenty-ninth annual convention of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor, Durham, August 29-31, announces an excellent program for possibly the largest state gathering of organized labor in the history of the movement.

Outstanding entertainment features include a banquet on Thursday night, 7:30 o'clock, in the banquet room of the Washington Duke Hotel. Thelma Lloyd, the Durham song bird, will be heard with her accompanist, Mrs. Llewellyn. M. F. Johnson will be toastmaster and there will be several short speeches by prominent people.

On Friday night in the ballroom, a floor show will be given at 8 o'clock, lasting until 9, followed by dancing until 1 o'clock, with intermission at 10:30, at which time refreshments will be served guests. Delegates and visitors may obtain tickets to the dance, without charge at the registration booth. It is of interest that all entertainers on the floor-show program are members of families of organized workers in Durham and vicinity.

Officials of the Federation emphasize the fact that all members of American Federation of Labor unions will be welcomed to the meetings and entertainment features whether a delegate or not.

## FREY WILL MAKE LABOR DAY SPEECH IN PITTSBURGH, PA.

Washington, D. C.—John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, will speak in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Labor Day under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Central Trades Council, it was announced at the headquarters of the Department in the A. F. of L. Building here. The address will be broadcast.