

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

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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TO PROMOTE WELFARE OF WORKERS ORGANIZATION IS NECESSARY SAYS A. F. OF L. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Atlantic City, N. J.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in their report to the Federation's annual convention here urged the affiliated unions to inaugurate an early nation-wide drive to enroll in trade unions the large numbers of workers who unless they are organized will be unable to protect themselves during the industrial transformation in which America is now struggling.

"Clearly, the United States, like all other industrial nations," the Council said, is passing through a period of fundamental changes in economic institutions and practices.

"Wage earners must be alert and prepared to take advantage of this change to secure recognition of their rights and increasingly adequate acceptance of them in the habits and practices of business. There is just one way by which wage earners can do this—organization in unions. Organized workers have new power and a medium through which they can undertake the promotion of their own best interests.

"Every other element in business is organized to take care of itself, and unless workers follow the same policy what they have is taken from them and what they ought to have goes unnoticed.

"Wage earners must be organized to have rights and promote their own welfare whether the method is collective bargaining with employers or the administration of law.

"With organization labor is all-powerful; without organization it does not have power, authority or rights.

"Upon those who believe in organization devolves the responsibility of extending organization and helping others to understand the spirit of unionism and the practice of collective bargaining.

"Your Executive Council urges every central labor union to plan and initiate, not later than December 1, a labor-forward program for the purpose of extending unionism to all the wage earners of its vicinity.

"We urge that this be your major activity during the coming winter and that your plan for a sustained undertaking. The officers of the American Federation of Labor will be charged with the responsibility for coordinating this nation-wide campaign and for helping in every way possible."

U. S. WILL STAY OUT OF WAR SAYS A. F. OF L. PRESIDENT; DICTATORIAL GOV'T IS BLAMED

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Oct. 8.—European dictatorships and asserted Communist attempts to gain control of the American Labor movement were assailed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in opening the Federation's 55th annual convention.

Green drew resounding applause from the 600 delegates when he blamed the Ethiopian war on dictatorial government, and said American labor would not permit this country to become involved.

Another outburst of applause followed his statement that no Communist organization could tell the Federation what it should or should not do.

Green based the "independence" of the Federation for organization of an independent political party.

"The American Federation of Labor will, in my judgment, declare itself in favor of independent political action in the formation of an independent political party when the cry-

talized opinion of the workers indicates that they believe their interests can be better served through such action rather than through the pursuit of a non-political party," he said.

"The American Federation of Labor will not be coerced into taking that action. It will not take that action because some order comes from some gathering in a foreign country directing the workers of the nation to form an independent labor party.

"We face all these issues bravely. There is no attempt to evade them. We want to do that very thing that will best provide the social, economic and industrial interests of the workers and our great movement will take advanced positions from time to time as we feel the circumstances and the realities of a situation and the facts indisputably warrant.

"But no government in a foreign land, no camouflaged organization meeting on foreign soil can tell the Federation of Labor what it should or should not do."

American labor, Green said, was saddened by the beats of war drums in Europe "because we hoped and believed that when the great World War ended we had truly made America and the world safe for Democracy."

"Selfishness," he said, "must be responsible for the conflict."

"It is very significant indeed that when dictators are enthroned, when they soon tire of a consideration of domestic problems and seek new worlds to conquer."

Green continued, "the people in Democratic countries abhor war and it is that Democratic sentiment that steadies the leaders of a nation."

"But behold the development of war manifestation and war equipment in the nations where people are ruled by dictators.

"Naturally, labor is concerned in this terrible threat to the world's peace. We are concerned about it, but I know I but give expression to the hearts and minds and judgment of the working men and women of the nation when I say that labor—labor as represented through the American Federation of Labor—will say to our own government 'under no circumstances whatever must we be drawn into this European war.'

"We have not forgotten the tragic lesson learned in the World War and the disappointments that have come as a result of the termination of that great conflict. They are still within our hearts and our minds. We shall urge our government to exercise its good influence, its good offices, to mediate, to extend a helping hand, to do all that lies within its power to promote a settlement of the conflict and to promote peace.

"But when our government has discharged its duty in that respect we feel that it has served fully and completely in the discharge of its obligations."

Other business of private and routine nature was gone through with, the meeting adjourning around 10 P.M.

COMPERS COMMENDS THE LABOR PRESS

Were it not for the labor press the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause.—President Gompers.

Central Labor Union

Vice-President Kiser, of the Plumbers and Steamfitters local, presided over the deliberations of Central Labor Union at its weekly meeting Tuesday night in the absence of President Frank Barr, who is out of the city.

The regular routine was gone through with, the reports of locals being above the average, though the attendance was not what it should have been. The Airport came up for discussion, and while the proposition was favored, the matter arose as to the pay of skilled workers on the project, should it be put over, and a committee was appointed to handle this end of the proposition.

First Vice-President Fullerton, of the State Federation of Labor, and a member of the Teamsters and Chauffeurs local of Charlotte made an interesting report on the meeting last week in Asheville of the second National Conference on Labor Legislation, which was also attended by President Lawrence, of the State body. Miss Francis Perkins was also present and held several conferences with labor leaders on conditions in North Carolina, which promises to bear good fruit.

PERTINENT COMMENT ON TIMELY TOPICS CHATTING BY HARRY BOATE

While we in the United States have been using every effort possible to enact laws which will make the lot of the working men and women more bearable, our neighbors to the south, in Mexico, have not been idle on the same subject, and according to statements recently made in Washington by Senor Louis N. Morones, head of the Mexican Federation of Labor, they are far ahead of the United States in many of its labor laws.

Following are a few of the statements made by Mr. Morones:—The Mexican Constitution adopted in 1917 contains many of the things that were written into the National Recovery Act in 1933. Mexico has a seven-hour limitation on night work and 100 per cent additional pay for overtime, one week of annual vacation with full pay, double pay for work on holidays, and the Mexican Supreme Court has held that the worker shall be paid in six days the established rate for seven days. Formation or promotion of a "company union" is a penal offense, and interference by an employer in the activities of a labor union is a violation of law. Child labor under 14 years is banned, no women may be engaged in night work, and there may be no lockouts except for over-production, and a board of inquiry determines whether such lockout or stoppage is justified.

Discharge of industrial workers without recognized cause must be accompanied by the payment of three months' wages, plus damages suffered. Which is usually calculated as 20 days' pay for every year which the worker has served the employer. In charges of violence the law specifically covers what must be proven to constitute violence, and the mere allegation of the employer that violence was committed has no standing in court. In cases of physical disability the worker must be retired with compensation. The firing and eviction of workers from company-owned homes is prohibited with heavy penalties for violation until he has complied with provisions of the act.

The Mexican constitution says the employer must supply houses, schools, and medical treatment to his workers, and the rent charged for such is limited to one-half per cent of the assessed valuation of such property—in other words, 6 per cent per year. Rights of workers are not only defined by statute, but duties and responsibilities of workers are also defined. The worker does not go to a factory for a job; he goes to his labor union, or he joins a labor union. And when the union sends a worker to a job it assumes a definite responsibility to the employer for his skill, his ability, his trustworthiness, and for his performance of his duties as an employee. Workers are rated by classification and the union is held responsible for him by the employer. The hours of work may be cut, but the rate of pay can not be cut. The union has a definite responsibility to the employer, and deals with him as one business man to another, and private parties can not change the law of the land by any contracts they may enter into between themselves.

In conclusion the statement reads: "We have anticipated the day in the future when American employers may seek to come into Mexico can establish competition with the American worker. We believe that Mexico can prosper economically without hurt to the United States or any other country. We will not permit Mexican workers to be exploited by foreign employers at the expense of workers of other countries."

He states the fact that Mexican export and imports are increasing year by year in proof that these laws have done his country no harm, and since the present government is comparatively new, they still have a long way to go before reaching maturity.

In view of the above statements it may not be unwise for our national and state legislators, also workers and union officials, to secure copies of these laws and study them well, to the end that we may learn more on the subject of how to properly regulate our activities and make this grand old country of ours a still better place in which to live, and make our people a more happy and contented class.

There is no good and sound reason why the United States of America should not be the best country in the world, and by continuously pushing onward and upward it will be so.

STRIKE-FREE RECOVERY VISIONED BY SECRETARY OF LABOR PERKINS; ADDRESSES FED. CONVENTION

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 9.—Peaceful industrial recovery was foreseen yesterday by Secretary Perkins of the Labor Department. Instead of the strikes and lockouts that have marked the ends of past depressions, both employers and employees were turning to the various government labor boards for aid in settling their differences, Miss Perkins told the American Federation of Labor convention.

She predicted that this policy would become even more general as recovery progressed.

"These agencies will gather authority as the years go on and as the spirit of co-operation between employer and employee continue to grow, as they become increasingly aware that it is in their interest and in the interest of the public as well, we will find the good offices of these boards being sought more and more as a voluntary substitute for long and costly strikes and lockouts," she said.

Jubilantly, Miss Perkins told the 600 delegates of signs that business steadily was getting better.

"The present acceleration is nationwide and industry-wide and is marked by the highly significant fact that the durable-goods industries are forging to the front," she said. "These industries, as a rule, are the first to suffer from a depression and the last to recover. The latest reports to the United States department of labor on construction activity, steel production, automobile machinery and machine tools, in particular, leaves no doubt that these industries, which are so significant in the entire picture of any recovery have actually made the turn."

The labor department chief's message was the high spot in two brief convention sessions, but behind the scenes warring factions were drawing their lines and making secret alliances for show-down fights on the building trades department row and the industrial union issue.

Whether workers in a mass production industry should be divided among craft unions or organized into one big union was the issue that promised to provide the biggest scap of the convention.

Eleven delegates introduced resolutions today calling for the federation to adopt an industrial unionization policy. More were expected. Automobile, linoleum, rubber, cement, brewery, and western metal mine delegates were among those to demand that the craft unions stay out of their industries.

Workers cannot lift themselves by their bootstraps, but they can raise every dollar spent for Union Label goods and services means better wages, shorter hours and decent working conditions for every worker.

Don't boycott the merchant who does not sell Union-made goods. Just stop trading with him!

\$325,000.00 AIRPORT MONEY IS PRACTICALLY ASSURED CHARLOTTE IF BOND ELECTION CARRIES

Definite assurance that Charlotte will be granted \$325,000 for development of its airport, if the people approve a \$50,000 bond issue for purchase of the 610-acre tract at Juneau was given Mayor Douglas on his second trip to Washington yesterday.

Back at his office this morning Mr. Douglas said that John S. Wynne, chief of the bureau of air commerce had assured him and Senator Robert R. Reynolds that Charlotte will be given, in a direct grant with no obligation for repayment, a total of \$325,000.

At the same time Mr. Douglas said that the engineers in the bureau are now at work on the plans for the Charlotte airport and that Lloyd M. Ross, city engineer, who accompanied him to Washington, provided them with much additional engineering data that was needed in connection with these plans.

There seems to be no question, according to the mayor, that Charlotte will secure at least \$325,000. However this can not be obtained unless the municipal government provides the land. And the local government must have the approval of the people for the issuance of the \$50,000 in bonds to buy the land.

The election is to be held October 22 with the special registration books closing next Saturday. Intensive efforts are being made to obtain the registration of those citizens who are in favor of the bonds and this morning plans were discussed by Mr. Douglas, States Lee, general chairman of the citizens committee and other interested citizens.—Charlotte News.

A. F. OF L. STILL FIGHTING FOR HOME AND CHILDREN THROUGH A BAN ON CHILD LABOR; 24 STATES RATIFY

Atlantic City, N. J.—An active campaign to elect to state legislatures candidates who favor the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution was urged by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in the Council's report to the annual convention of the Federation here.

"In order to make effective a uniform national policy regulating child labor, which States have been unable to achieve, the Child Labor Amendment proposes to authorize Congress to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age," the Council said.

"A national law is needed because the child labor products of States with low standards are transported and sold in States with higher standards.

"When the Child Labor Amendment is ratified Congress shall determine the age at which children may be employed and shall prohibit gainful employment to all under that age.

"This does not mean that the law will invade the home either in the city or on the farm and prohibit children from taking a reasonable part in the home duties. It only seeks to conserve the formative period of every child's life to educational development.

"The Amendment will in no way change family control and authority. It simply grants to Congress power which the States now have and exercise. It will not interfere with the States' right to enact child labor legislation raising standards fixed by Congress and to co-operate with Federal authorities.

"The appropriations for dependent children provided in the new Social Security Act will facilitate the establishment of higher age levels for gainful employment for children.

RATIFIED BY TWENTY-FOUR STATES
"Twenty-four States have ratified the Child Labor Amendment. Twelve more States must approve the amendment in order to secure its adoption as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

WAGE BOOST OF NINE MILLION GAINED BY COAL MINERS IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING DEAL

Washington, D. C.—A full committee of 28 representatives of the United Mine Workers of America and 28 operators approved a wage and hour agreement that ended the coal strike of 400,000 bituminous miners. The strike became effective on Sept. 23 following the operators refusal to grant wage increases which the coal miners claimed are necessary to provide decent living standards.

The new contract embodied the final demands of the United Mine Workers. It runs for 18 months, expiring on April 1, 1937. It provides wage increases for various classifications of mine workers amounting to about \$90,000,000 a year.

The operators finally yielded to the miners' demand for an increase of 9 cents a ton to coal diggers who are paid by the ton. The refusal of the operators on Sept. 22 to grant only an increase of 7½ cents a ton precipitated the strike call.

In view of the wage increases the miners' representatives gave up their demand for the six-hour day and five-day week. The new contract continues the seven-hour day and five day week contained in the old contract.

AGREEMENT PLEASURES ROOSEVELT
Edward F. McGrady, Assistant Secretary of Labor, who had been working with the miners' and operators' committees, informed President Roosevelt at the White House of the agreement as soon as it was finalized.

The President then wrote on White House stationery the following note to Mr. McGrady:

"As I prepare to go to the train I am made happy by your good news. Will you tell the hundreds of thousands of coal miners and the many operators that tonight's agreement will make my long deferred vacation a great pleasure, and also that this is a splendid example of the usefulness of the principle of collective bargaining to which we are all committed?
Very sincerely yours,
"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT."

STIFF FIGHT AGAINST INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM IS BEING WAGED AT A. F. OF L. CONVENTION IN JERSEY

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Oct. 9.—Intensified, undercover electioneering in the fight of craft against industrial unionism spread today among delegates at the American Federation of Labor convention.

Awaiting John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine workers who personifies the industrial union cause, youthful representatives of about 50 of the smaller unions took the initiative in signing delegates' votes.

James B. Carey, understood to have the miner's approval, formed the group into vote-getters to sound sentiment and report hourly progress.

The hastily formed organization refrained from making public the unions it encompassed, but among them were bookkeepers, accountants and others of the clerical groups.

Among the 31,000 votes represented at the convention, the industrial union adherents already declared 13,000 were ready to oppose craft union organization when the first clear-cut issue was presented.

Such an issue may come in a direct move by industrial unionists for federation endorsement of their type of organization or in determination of justification questions in which craft and industrial unions are opposed.

The craftsmen claimed 16,000 votes and appeared confident of victory.

Sentiment for an independent labor party, again among the younger union members, gathered momentum and plans were laid to consolidate strength.

Before the delegates were several resolutions critical of the two major parties for allegedly failing to support labor. That favored by many was presented by Francis J. Gorman, first vice-president of the United Textile Workers.

Gorman's resolution asked that federation officers take the initiative to form state labor parties within three months and call a national congress of such groups within a year.

It said that "the majority of our populace finds itself faced, not with fighting one or the other of the two old parties, but with fighting the powerful interests which control them."

TRUCE IN MILK STRIKE IS REJECTED BY PRODUCERS

CHICAGO, Oct. 8.—Open rebellion by striking farmers against the Pure Milk Association and a defy by the strikers to Governor Henry Horner tonight widened the breach in a milk strike. Farmers from 14 counties who met in Elgin rejected the governor's plea for a 30-day truce and began the establishment of a new bargaining agency to supplant the Pure Milk Association, official agency for 18,000 dairy farmers in the Chicago milkshed.

TO ADVERTISERS

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LOOK AT THE LABEL ON YOUR PAPER. IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE, SEND US A MONEY ORDER, CHECK OR CASH. IT WILL BE WELCOME AT THIS TIME.