



Wm. Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, makes the flat statement that the annual conventions decide our organization policy, and he fears clearage in labor solidarity from the formation of separate groups with the Federation. He also states "My conscience and my judgment lead me to advise against it and emphasize most vigorously the danger of division and of discard which may follow."

principle of craft unionism. On Nov- its original purpose. ember 9, a statement was issued in trial Organization" composed of the consequences. A line of cleavage be presidents of the following unions: tween such a movement and the paternational Typographical Union, breach between those who sincerely Amalgamated Clothing Workers of and honestly believe in different forms America, International Ladies' Gar-ment Workers' Union, United Tex-widened. Bitterness and strike would tile Workers of America; Oil Field, inevitably follow. Gas Well and Refining Workers of America; United Hatters, Cap and within the Ameri Millinery Workers' International Union: International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. The statement said the committee "will work in accordance with the principles and policies enunciated by these organizations at the Atlantic City convention of the American Federa-tion of Labor." On November 25, William Green, president of the Am-erican Federation of Labor, made public a letter which he sent on November 23 to the officials of the organizations which formed the "Committee on Industrial Organization." The text of Mr. Green's letter fotl-

"I learned through press reports recently of the formation of an organization called the 'Committee for Industrial Organization.' It was stated therein that representatives of conference when such organization was formed and that the international of view at succeeding conventions. union you represent is to be a component part of it.

lows:)

"Officers of national and international unions would undoubtedly view with feelings of apprehension and deep concern any attempt on the part purpose of promoting the acceptance achievement of a laudable purpose. or rejection of a principle or a policy

(Editor's Note-On Oct. 16, 1935, character and as decidedly menacing the annual convention of the Amer- to its success and welfare. When orican Federation of Labor in Atlantic ganizations within organizations are City by a vote of 18,024 to 10,933 de- formed for the achievement and realfeated a proposal favoring industrial ization of some declared purpose no unionism as the organization policy of one can accurately prophesy or prethe American Federation of Labor dict where such a movement will lead. and reaffirmed its adherence to the It could and may be diverted from

"Experience has shown that organ-Washington, D. C., announcing the izations thus formed are productive formation of a "Committee on Indus- of confusion and fraught with serious United Mine Workers of America, In- rent body may be created and the

"It has been the fixed rule, both within the American Federation of Labor and national and international unions affiliated with it to decide upon organization policies by a ma-jority vote at legally convened conventions.

"The widest opportunity must be accorded the officers and delegates who participate in these conventions to present their point of view, to de-liberate profoundly and to decide judiciously grave and important questions of organization and administrative policies.

"When a decision has thus been rendered it becomes the duty of the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor to comply with it and they should be permitted to do this free from the interference and opposition of those who consti-

tute the minority. "Those who disagre with the action your organization participated in the of the majority are accorded the right to urge the acceptance of their point

"I deem it my official duty, as president of the American Federation of Labor, to express my feelings of apprehension over the grave conse-quences which might follow from the formation of an organization within of a group of local unions to organ-ize within the organization they represent a movement for the avowed said organization is formed for the

"My conscience and my judgment lead me to advise against it and em-**RFC LOAN USED TO BREAK STRIKE** which had been considered and dephasize most vigorously the danger of cided upon at a convention representative of all the members of said na iivision and of discord which ma follow. tional or international union. 'Some officers and members with-"My loyalty and devotion to the principles and ideals of the Ameriin national and international unons, as well as within the American Fedcan Federation of Labor inspire me to transmit this communication to eration of Labor, regard separate you. I ask you to accept it in the framovements formed within the main organization structure as dual in ternal spirit in which it is sent."

-The following, written by Edgar Guest and published in the Amer ican Magazine, might make food fo rthought for those who may seek office in future elections:

CHATTING

BY

HARRY BOATE

"A merchant in a small town ran for office and was overwhelmingly defeated. He pulled so few votes that he appeared ridiculous in the eyes of his heighbors, and both his social and business standing were in danger. It's hard to be laughed at and still hold your ground.

"But this merchant was a good sport. What is more, he knew the perils of becoming the town joke. So he beat the town to it. The morning after the election he put this sign in his window: "\$25 reward for the name of

the man who cast that vote for me. "Everybody, saw it, and everybody laughed. But they laughed with him, and not at him. People came into his store to shake hands and congratulate him on his sense of humor and sportsmanship. The story of the sign went the rounds of the country, and farmers began to drop into his store to trade. Thus the merchant turned defeat into a personal triumph by proving that he was the town's best loser.'

-The elderly man seeking the fountain of youth recieved six pills, to be taken 'o'ne each day for six days."

"I'll just take them all at once and have it over with," he said to him. self.

Next morning he overslep. Members of the family, becoming uneasy, 

he likes, and how he likes, or do nothing at all if he likes, where is no such man: and there never can be such man." This is Bernard Shaw speaking and from actual trial he should know whereof he speaks. If his biographer is correct, this disposition to follow his "likes" was the chief rule of action from his youth up. Shaw knows from actual experience that there is no such man or he would have been a living model of the man who could successfully

live up to such a rule. ——North Carolina Christian Advocate had this to say about one who is not unknown in the news columns of today:

"General Johnson, the big giant of early NRA days, who strode the business world like a colossus, noisy and terrible, seems to be getting a dif-ferent slant on things. Listen to a recent utterance: 'You know as well as I do that the Federal Government can't go on pouring five bililon dollars a year in soothing syrup to keep the unemployment problem from raising bedlam all over the nation.' May we hope that some other leaders in recent government tactics will see the light and mend their ways. Stop pauperizing people and give honest, hard-working people a chance.

----Following in a somewhat similar line of thought as the above comes the following from The Monroe Enquirer, entitled "Who Owes You a Liv-

Today millions of perfectly healthy, able-bodied people are being taught to loaf at the expense of the savings of others, instead of to rustle for themselves. Such a system can endure only so long as there are stored-up savings to confiscate, then the inexorable laws of nature will prevail.

An epidemic of pests completely devours a tree or a field of grain, and then the pests die. Nature does not owe them a living. The same thing can happen to governments and to the human beings

who make the governments-if they eat up their capital to maintain idle ness they will eventually find that nature refuses to hear their demands that 'someone owes them a living."

This may not be a pleasant sounding philosophy, but it is a fact which noney-coated political cure-alls try to hide.

solini, of Italy; Hitler, of Germany, and Stalin, of Russia, the sooner will the world generally get back to a clearer way of thinking and acting on all matters affecting the people generally.



### BY CHARLES P. HOWARD,

#### **President, International Typographical Union**

In discussing the success or failure of the organization policies of the American Federation of Labor during its recent convention at Atlantic City the statement was made by those who proposed industrial organization that there were thirty-nine million organizable workers in the United States. It was also stated the records show approximately three and one-half million are organized and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The contention was made that after workers now employed in the mass fifty-five years of effort this did not piroduction and other industries. indicate a satisfactory degree of success in organizing the wage-workers of the nation. Responsibility for the

failure was charged to the refusal of the A. F. of L. to develop and adopt new policies for organization to adequately meet the ever-changing conditions in industry. The statement as to the organizable

number of wage workers was questioned by those who oppose any change in our organization policies. Some of those who participated in the debate declared the number of workers who were organizable had been greatly exaggerated. This statement was offered as a defense against the charge that our efforts at organization has not been as successful as they might been had more effective policies been adopted. However, none of those who questioned the number of organizable workers offered federal data to support their statements and it was ignored that the President of the er. What would be more helpful in Federation had expressed the hope that twenty-five million workers could be organized under its banner.

The most comprehensible and accurate statistics available, bearing upon the classification of workers, are to be found in the census reports of the United States for the year 1930. An analysis of these reports published in The Journal of the American Statistical Association show there were forty-nine million persons employed at gainful occupations in the United States in that year. Of this number 28,421,000 were classed as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers and 7,987,000 were clerks and salesmen. Thus the workers in these classes total 36,408,000. Who will contend that there is a consider-able number of these classes that are not organizable?

What would be the result of organizing some of these millions of unorganized workers?

First and most important, the ben-

Second, the organization of these workers would protect those who are now organized. If organized under the banner of the A. F. of L., it would be as much a part of their philosophy and ethics that they would not act as strikebreakers as if they were organized into craft unions. This would have the effect of making existing unions more effective upon the economic and industrial field.

Third, the concerns and industries in which the workers are unionized would not suffer the unfair competition of those concerns and indus-tries in which the workers are unorganized and in which the wages are lower and the hours of work longer. Employers could not engage in cutthroat competition through cutting wages and extending working hours. Fourth, by increasing the number of organized workers the demand for union-made products would be greatmaintaining business and industrial prosperity than to have millions refusing to purchase articles produced under unfair conditions?

Fifth, the efforts of those who represent the workers in securing state and national legislation would be much more effective if they directly represented these added millions. At a time when there is developing policies of regulating wages, hours and conditions of employment by federal and state legislation the importance of organized workers exerting the utmost influence in formulating this legislation can not be overestimated. These facts should be apparent to the most obtuse mind. It is essential that the millions of wage-workers in mass production and other industries be organized. Organization policies of the American Federation of Labor have not been as effective as they should be. The new condition which is rapidly developing will make it even more difficult than in the past

# **Meeting of Central** Labor Union One

The meeting last night (Wednes-day) of Central Labor Union, in the Moose Hall, was one of the best attended in recent weeks, and an atmosphere of good will and fellowship was evident. There were uuite a number of ladies present. The dele-gates made good reports from their locals as to working conditions and seven new delegates were obligated. President Frank Barr presided, with Secretaries Amyx and Atwill at their posts. Chairman Fenellerton, of the board of trustees, made an interesting report on matters close to Central body.

Organizer J. Dooly stated in brief the need of the co-operation of every union man in the work he has in on South Tryon street. This will be hand, and will receive, we believe, the support he asks for.

Textile Workers, made an interesting The members of organized labor and talk on the work, prospects, growth their wives and "sweethearts" are and backsets of his organization. He invited. There will be music, refresh-told of the lessons learned by past ex- ments, talks, etc. Keep this in mind perience in his craft, and promised a and be present.

better and more stabilized organization in the days to come, reporting a healthy growth, the membership now being composed of men who have been tried by the test of fire. Brother Of Much Interest Thrift is always an interetsing speaker, never soaring to flights of oratory. but putting his subject over in a concise and convincing manner, being not

of the visionary type, but more in a realistic way. The meeting adjourned about 9 P M., and there was a pleasant half hour

spent afterward in conversation and 'swapping' of ideas for the betterment of the movement.

Women's Label League To Give **An Xmas Party** 

The Women's Union Label League on next Thursday night will give its Christmas party at the Moose Hall,

Phone 3-5125

President Threatt, of the N. C. interesting from a social standpoint.



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## ATTHE MOORESVILLE COTTON MILLS; tion would be extended to them. I been established by the aggressive the mass purchasing of the organized minority. Craft unions have nothing to lose and every-thing to gain as the result of organ-AND UNION WORKERS ARE OUSTED

MOORESVILLE, N. C .- How some government agencies are working at cross purposes in labor matters is shown in the case of the Mooresville Cotton Mills Company, which found itself in need of refinancing in September of this year.

On Sept. 19 there was a meeting of the board of directors of the company to consider financial needs and the advisability of applying to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for a loan of \$200,000. In making such a loan all the directors must jointly sign the notes given.

All directors but one agreed. The land. Otherwise, he declared, even an one who refused said that he would Al Capone organization might come in and secure a loan for the purpos go along on two conditions, namely, (1) that the superintendents of the mills be discharged, and (2) that the by making a proper showing of indus by making a proper showing of indus management get rid of some of the trial activity. To this the RFC made no reply. dam union people. The loan was granted on October

On this basis all directors agreed 21, and that fact was published in the local press at Mooresville. The that they must get rid of the union organization of the workers, but hold amount of the loan could not be made the superintendent in his place until the union was ousted—on the ground that the superintendent himself was known until after the RFC has made its report to Congress. It is stated, however, that the amount allowed was either the initial sum of \$241,000, or under fire from the union, and discharging him would look like backthe entire amount applied for-\$800,-000. ing down on a union demand. The loan was duly applied for forth-

with.

On September 20th the management discharged all the officers and active members of the United Textile Work ers of America in the local union. After making an appeal to the Regional Board of the National Labor Relations Board at Atlanta, without avail a strike was voted by the local union on September 23.

Union Organizer Leonard J. Greene protested to the RFC concerning the oan which had been applied for, on the grounds that the company did not come with clean hands, since its officers had entered into a conspiracy to violate the law of the United States relating to the origination of its workers, namely, the Wagner Labor

The RFC replied to Mr. Greene, saying that it had no power to investigate a strike. To this Mr. Greene made answer that it was the duty of the RFC to investigate the intention of the company making such an ap-plication to observe the law of the mills are running on RFC money.

here.

### **OUR ADVERTISERS**

As always this isue of The Journal of Labor carries some important NEWS in its advertising columns. How and where you can save money should be important news to YOU-to everyone. If you have not already done so, turn to the ads right now and acquaint yourself with their contents. Then make up your mind to visit the stores of these advertisers and profit to a

surprising extent. Be sure to let the advertiser know why you ter the advertiser know why you are there. Tell him you saw it in The Labor Journal. Re-member, these advertisers are your friends. They are this newspaper's friends. Another thing you must not forget, though, is that all of OUR FRIENDS and all of YOUR FRIENDS and all of YOUR **FRIENDS** among the merchants and business men and institu-tions of this city are NOT in this issue. However, from time to time they are ALL found

the products of the factory and farm. izing working men and women, who Their hours of labor would be re- are now unorganized, upon a basis duced. This would provide opportun- which they are willing to accept. Ority for employment of some of those ganization of these workers into com-who are now unemployed. The in-pany unions, independent unions and crease in purchasing power resulting asosciations with an antagonistic from the larger number employed philosophy and inexperienced leaders provide employment for an additional will create a real menace.

number. Thus, instead of being con-Let us not forget these workers fronted with the prospects of a nor-mal condition of from eight to ten million unemployed workers it is en-is shall they be organized under the tirely logical that the solution of the leadership of the American Federaunemployment problem is to be found tion of Labor? Shall its policies be in the organization of the millions of sympathetic or antagonistic?



The Journal, accompanied by the fashion.

'Secretary," journeyed out to the Catawba river last Thursday for Thanksgiving dinner and to dedicate

the new club house of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union of Charlotte. It was by invitation and A. J. Dumas piloted us to the hidden spot, where we found already gathered a number of the boys and their wives and children, with more yet to come, and re-gardless of the rain which pattered on the tin roof and the chill atmos-phere, the club house was really comand "other things" indulged in. Aft- ed and painted, of its cabin being re-

the appetite could call for, it seeme stuff we got away with it, after a undertaking.

The boys have their own lighting system and are planning to get their own water, also to procure more

Being asked to look at their "house-boat," we took to the drizzle, and went to the river bank to see moored a bark of questionable character, which was "dug up" somewhere out inthe river and got to shore by tackle, line and bulldog perseverance. We had to smile, wanted to laugh, but didn't get a chance, for Barr, Beatty, Dumas, and Kiser, commenced telling fortable, with a roaring fire. There about a Diesel they had put in, of was conversation and reminiscences, how it was going to be rosined, seamer the fast contingent had arrived, modeled, and of this and that, which dinner was put on the table, and, oh would make it appear when spring boy, such a dinner-turkey, duck, ham, cakes, pies, pickles, cranberry on the river-yes, we still believe in sauce, coffee, crackers and everything miracles, boys.

These plumber and steamfitter like. After dinner, The Journal edi- boys are up and doing all the while, tor was put on the spot by Brother and they owe much to their wives, Dumas to do the dedicating stunt, and who are always ready to pull with while we are a novice at this kind of them for the success of their every



company was operating with only about 30 per cent, and the strike was practically won.

The situation means that the strik ing union members, of whom there are about 400, are out on the streets, and are refused employment unless they disavow the union. In this stiu ation the FERA said that it could do nothing, referring the textile workers to the state office.

The RFC loan put the company

in a position to go out and hire strikebreakers, which it has done; and it is now operating with about 60 per cent of nor-mal employes. *Prior to that, the* 

The state management of the FERA say that they have no funds. But later advices are to the effect that the WPA funds will be avail-

able for the relief of the strikers. Other textile labor cases are now pending before the National Labor Relations Board, and the Mooresville case will probably be reached in due course by that body. Meanwhile the