

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

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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STATE FEDERATION CLOSSES MEET; R. R. LAWRENCE RE-ELECTED PRES.; NEXT MEETING TO BE AT ASHEVILLE

(Special to Charlotte Labor Journal)

WINSTON-SALEM, Aug. 13.—The North Carolina State Federation of Labor closed its 30th annual convention here yesterday evening. George L. Googe, southern representative of William Green, A. F. of L. president presided over the election of officers, which resulted in the re-election of President R. R. Lawrence, and Secretary Sandifer; also J. H. Fullerton, as first vice-president. H. L. Kiser, of the Plumbers and Steamfitters, Charlotte, was made a vice-president. The convention adjourned to meet next year in Asheville. R. W. Eddins, of Durham, was chosen Chaplain. President Lawrence and "his official family" were given endorsement in their support of Dr. Ralph McDonald, who was made honorary member of the state body. Representative Googe paid high tribute to President Lawrence for "furthering the cause of organized and unorganized labor in the state." Frank E. Walsh, Garment Workers, of New York, urged organization of the farmers into farmer-labor coalition and met a hearty response from Paul Leonard, ardent sales tax opponent. The re-election of President Lawrence was urged by the convention.

WINSTON-SALEM, Aug. 12.—The North Carolina State Federation of Labor assembled here Monday morning in its thirtieth annual convention with a large attendance of delegates and visitors on hand for the opening session. The actual business was confined to the appointment of various committees to handle the convention affairs, while the formal greeting of delegates was gone through with.

G. V. Kite, president of the local Central Labor Union, was in the chair and the invocation was by Rev. R. A. Hunter, the address of welcome by Mayor W. T. Wilson, and response by Henry I. Adams, representative of American Federation of Hosiery Workers, followed by addresses by J. H. White, president of the local Chamber of Commerce W. P. Covington, Winston Merchants' Association, and W. T. Ritter, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. The gavel was then presented to R. R. Lawrence, state president, and the convention was on its way. The following committees were then appointed by the president:

Credentials, rules, officers' reports, resolutions, laws, organization, label, legislation, education, grievance, thanks.

J. Paul Leonard, Statesville, president of the State Fair Tax Association, made an address at the afternoon session condemning the iniquitous sales tax, saying in part, "The time has come when the wage-earners, the largest organized group in the state, should join hands with the tax-collecting merchants and others who have banded themselves together in the Fair Tax Association for a great drive against the sales tax forces which will bring about absolute abolition of the cursed method of extracting revenue when the next General Assembly meets."

Other speakers at the afternoon session included the following: C. V. Weaver, of Reidsville, representative of the International Tobacco Workers' Union; Thomas Brayer, of Atlanta, representative of the Street Car Service international; A. C. Clapp, of Knoxville, Tenn., representative of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union; J. E. Baumgerger, of Asheville, representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; Clyde Mills, of Washington, bringing a message from George L. Berry, Federal co-ordinator, and Stanley Rounds, of Knoxville, Tenn., a representative of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers.

A message from William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, urged "constructive organization of unorganized workers in the state" and appealed for enactment by Congress of a bill providing for a new national recovery act which will conform to the Supreme Court decision and will as far as possible preserve benefits of the original act." Green also urged support of the Black 34-hour week bill.

An appeal to working people of the state to take greater interest in politics was made by President Lawrence in his annual address, delivered shortly after opening of the convention. Lawrence demanded fair election laws, abolition of the absentee ballot and elimination of markers at the polls except for the blind and other physically incapacitated.

Tuesday, the second day of the convention, saw the body advocating old age pensions and unemployment insurance, abolition of the general sales tax and of capital punishment in North Carolina and state control and taxing of the manufacture and sale of liquor, also approving a 43-point legislative program. The entire program was adopted with discussion of only one of its points, that of capital punishment, the 43rd item in the list of objectives. The Clevenger murder case (Asheville) was injected into the discussion of the capital punishment plank, but after State Presi-

dent R. R. Lawrence, who is chairman of the legislative committee, demanded inclusion of the abolition plank in the report, it was adopted with only three dissenting votes, one of which was cast in an emphatic tone by Delegate Blaine, of the Asheville Painters' Union. Blaine had referred to the capital case in stressing the need of capital punishment.

Speakers at Monday's session included Dr. Ralph W. McDonald, runner-up candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor in the recent primary, who acclaimed President Roosevelt "the balance wheel of America and said benefits of the New Deal should be brought to North Carolina."

"While nation after nation is in the midst of a bloody struggle between facism and communism, the Democratic philosophy of Roosevelt carries the United States forward in a new conception of balance and fairness in the inter-relations of property and human rights," McDonald said.

North Carolina, he said, stands as one of the few which has not benefited by the spirit of the New Deal. The state, he asserted, has done nothing about unemployment insurance and old age pensions, while in farm legislation it lags far behind Roosevelt.

"Recognition of the rights of labor have been foremost in the policies of Roosevelt, but North Carolina has not yet caught step with the national Democratic party in this matter," McDonald said.

Emil Rieve, national organizer of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, told the convention his federation would launch in North Carolina the most intensive organizational campaign ever waged among hosiery workers of the South.

John A. Peel, third vice-president of the United Textile Workers, referred to the American Liberty League as "termites working at the foundation of our nation."

Peel named specifically Al Smith, the DuPonts and John W. Davis "and others of their ilk," who he said were before "President Roosevelt on bended knees in 1933, asking him to do something, and who, now that the profits are rolling in again, would undermine the progress that has made the profits possible."

Howard Colvin, a conciliator of the Department of Labor, criticized the Supreme Court which he said "can't see the working man's side of our present economic scheme." He listed the various legislation effecting the status of the laboring classes which had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and others which had been declared constitutional.

"Never in any similar period in the recent history of labor has so much been done for the working man, nor in any period 10 times as long," Colvin said. "For every \$100 paid to labor 10 years ago \$159 is being paid now." Big business is the only complainant, yet it is making profits in millions now where it was taking losses four years ago."

A report of the federations education committee recommended higher wages for teachers, a complete unionization of the teachers of the state, school supplies of warm lunches for the children and uniform school systems.

On Tuesday delegates attended a banquet and dance. Election of officers and selection of the place for the meeting next year will mark the closing session tomorrow.

PERTINENT COMMENT ON TITULAR TOPICS

CHATTING

BY HARRY BOATE

Under date of Raleigh, N. C., August 5, it was stated that 85 names, one of the longest lists for a single day in several months, appeared on the daily tabulation of automobile license revocations. This number brought the total revocations to 4,391 since the law became effective last November. Most of the permits were listed as having been taken away following convictions for drunken driving. Since gasoline and whiskey will not mix, it may be safer to put the whiskey in the gas tank.

In Greensboro, N. C., last week two men charged with breaking into a service station claimed they merely needed a sandwich and some cigarettes after an all-night tour of several counties while pretty well intoxicated. Judge Warlick did not see the matter in the same light and insisted that the men serve one year each for their misdoing, ending with the remark: "If you don't quit blaming everything on liquor you're going to ruin its reputation. Such doing practically ruined liquor 20 years ago."

Concerning this subject of drink we find in the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 31, these words: 4. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: 5. Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. 6. Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. 7. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

This last paragraph appears to be one which many who drink have in mind when starting out for a good time, so-called. Have distinctly in mind a former fellow workman who was known for periodic sprees and violent temper when so afflicted. This party was one of the large group who develop the habit of weeping while in his cups. At other times life seemed happy as fortune for the moment seemed to smile upon him. Many times has he told me that while drunk he (in his mind) had the finest kind of a job, and was perfectly happy. But when sane reasoning came back to him, his purse was empty, his head too large for his hat, and it was necessary for him to return to the same old work which he was so happy to have left while he was celebrating.

While on this same subject following will be found some pertinent questions regarding this "joy maker" (?) of the present day and time. This article was headed: "Did You Ever Hear of These Fools?"

Did you ever hear of a man who lost his job because he was a total abstainer?

Did you ever hear of an insurance company that offered reduced premiums to booze addicts?

Did you ever hear a woman saying, "My husband would be the best husband in the world if he would only drink?"

Did you ever hear of a chauffeur who could drive his car with more safety if he took a snort of alcohol before starting out?

Did you ever hear of a railway engineer who stood better with his employers if he patronized the saloons?

Did you ever hear of an Arctic explorer who stocked up his supplies with liquor in order to keep warm?

Did you ever hear of a child who complained because his daddy did not come home half soused?

Did you ever hear of a man who objected to his daughter marrying a man because he was not a booze addict?

Did you ever hear of a woman complaining because her husband spent too little time in the grocery instead of spending his evenings at home?

Did you ever hear of a murderer on the gallows declaring that his abstinence practices led him to his predicament?

Did you ever hear of a man who beat his wife and thrashed his baby because he was sober when he came home?

Did you ever hear of a house owner who charged high rentals because a saloon had been set up next door?

Did you ever hear of a banker who threw up his hat with joy because a snake-hole was opened close by?

Did you ever hear of a mother who consented to her daughter becoming a barmaid in order to help civilize the dump?

Did you ever hear of a preacher delivering a better sermon because he was half shot?

Did you ever hear of a gink who boasted that he could "drink or let it alone," who actually did let it alone?

Did you ever hear of a "moderation society that advocated total abstinence?"—W. E. (Pusseyfoot) Johnson.

GREEN CLAIMS "MINORITY RULE VS. MAJORITY RULE" IS THE REAL ISSUE; AND ASKS "SHALL MAJORITY RULE?"

WASHINGTON, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address before the National Press Club here, warned that the basic principle underlying the establishment and activities of the Committee for Industrial Organization is the destruction of democratic procedure and majority rule in the government of the American Federation of Labor.

He said there was absolutely no truthful foundation for the claim set up by the C. I. O. that the issue is craft unionism vs. industrial unionism. He pointed out that the A. F. of L. had in fact chartered a number of industrial unions, including the United Mine Workers of America, and asserted that in the mass production industries the Federation "will apply the industrial form of organization in the broadest and most comprehensive and constructive manner possible."

Turning to the government of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Green explained that its policies are democratically laid down by the annual conventions of the Federation and that every decision is reached by the principle of majority rule.

He charged that the Committee for Industrial Organization 1935 was established to destroy the organization policy which the 1935 convention of the Federation adopted by a large majority, and held that the basic question before the Federation and its Executive Council is not forms of organization but the preservation of democratic procedure and majority rule which have always been its fundamental principles.

Mr. Green cited the last address made by Samuel Gompers before his death in 1924 urging the continuance of the principle of voluntarism in the labor movement as an essential element of human liberty, and declared he would not "betray the trust" imposed on him by President Gompers "or cast a reflection upon this great message."

WINSTON-SALEM, Aug. 12.—The state Federation of Labor, at its final session here today, turned to administrative matters after deciding upon a legislative platform for the year.

The federation advocated old age pensions and unemployment insurance, abolition of the three per cent sales tax, state control and taxing of the manufacture and sale of liquor, and doing away with capital punishment.

Emil Rieve, national organizer of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, told the convention his union would launch in this state the most intensive organizational campaign ever waged among hosiery workers of the South.

The federation's education com-

mittee recommended higher wages for teachers, a complete unionization of the teachers of the state, school supplies of warm lunches for the children and uniform school systems.

Bill Sharpe, former president of the Winston-Salem Newspaper Guild, urged that delegates contact newspaper men in their communities with a view to having them organize under the American Newspaper Guild, which was recently granted a charter by the American Federation of Labor.

The value of the world's annual fish catch is estimated at \$800,000,000.

About two and one-half million Americans are hay fever sufferers.

PRESIDENT SENDS A MESSAGE AND LEWIS ADDRESSES LABOR NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL LEAGUE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—Amidst reminders of the dispute over wage and hour legislation, labor's Non-Partisan League pledged itself late yesterday to national organization for re-election of President Roosevelt, as a base for "establishment of a liberal party" in 1940.

Following the reference to 1940 by George L. Berry, president of the league and an official in the administration, the convention by resolution indorsed the organization "as an instrumentality for the furtherance of liberalism in our country."

By the way of leading up to their action, a message from Mr. Roosevelt had been read, coupling mention of Supreme Court decisions with a statement that "a return to reactionary practices is ever short lived."

"During the past three years," he wrote, "we have endeavored to correct through legislation certain of the evils in our economic system. We have sought to put a stop to certain economic practices which did not promote the general welfare."

"Some of the laws which were enacted were declared invalid by the Supreme Court."

"It is a notable fact that it was not the wage-earners who cheered when those laws were declared invalid. I greet you in faith that future history has so repeatedly and effectively shown, that a return to reactionary practices is ever short lived."

Gathered in the small ballroom at the Willard hotel, upward of 50 delegates from the country over applauded the presidential welcome and speeches by Berry, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, and Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

All three portrayed the political campaign as one between the forces of liberalism and reaction, contending the interest of wage-earners were represented by the Democratic ticket while financial and big industrial interests were backing Landon and Knox.

"We know from the decisions of the Supreme Court," said Hillman, "that unless we have a government sympathetic to labor, there is no way to work out problems like technological unemployment. The only answer is a shorter work day and work week. We propose, after this election, to demand legislation outlawing sweatshops and requiring decent wages."

"It is time," said Lewis, "for labor to be awake. It is time for the workers to organize politically. Organization of this league should cause the exploiters of labor to ask whether they are drifting."

Arms waving, the mine workers' head, referred to changes in the form of government elsewhere and shouted that "breakdowns come when the people do not get their share of the national wealth."

"And the Republican party has the brazen effrontery to ask the American people to elect a pitiful puppet responsible to Standard Oil, the steel interests, the bankers of New York and Chicago, and the Hearst newspapers," he added.

Pointing to a bust-length portrait of Roosevelt by his side, Lewis called him "the greatest humanitarian who ever served in the presidency." Applause greeted predictions that Pennsylvania and New York would go Democratic. Apropos of the league's course after November, he said only "we'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Ruminating Over "Sunnybrook Farm"

Just got a letter from "Aunt Lottie" Wiseman, of "Sunnybrook Farm" up in Western North Carolina, about eight miles west of Spruce Pine on Highway 19-E, with an altitude of 3,000 feet, and about a city block (or two) from the North Toe river, and nestling at the foot of the mountains, with a babbling brook running very close by. At once we commenced to smell fried country ham, real ham gravy, fried chicken that you could really eat, good old country snap beans boiled with real fat back, country eggs that you could rely upon, gathered as used from all over the place, milk with real cream and buttermilk with a golden grain of butter here and there; we could taste corn on the cob that a man without teeth could eat; real corn bread and honey just from the hive; to say nothing of the little incidentals that in town one can not get really fresh and rather scantily at that. Sweltering at 96 we could see

those fortunate enough to be domiciled at "Sunnybrook" donning their coats and wraps as evening drew on, and though "we" had been sick for two weeks could feel an appetite coming on, and, in our mind's eye as the ideas of evening came upon us and the heat had us almost to the mat, a feeling of revivication crept over us, and a languishing and fading appetite felt an uplift.

No, Aunt Lottie, we can't come up yet, but before the fall is well upon us hope to be able to see the mountains in all their bauby and abide with you and "Uncle Robert" for a week. So here's day-dreaming from now till then.

The Philippine islands were so named after King Philip of Spain. It costs Uncle Sam about 1 cent to make a dollar bill.

In Italy, kissing in public is legal only at railway stations.

FIGHTING WAR AND FASCISM

BY DINSMORE WHEELER

The responsibility for war does not rest solely on pot-bellied old men who connive in Wall Street nor on the beribboned diplomats who play with chips that don't belong to them. To be sure, they write the plays, set the stage, sell the tickets, tack up the posters, and pass out the handbills. But if the rest of us refused to be hoodwinked when they send out the call for puppets that they can manipulate by tying strings around our hands and feet, there wouldn't be any big show. The war-makers hold out the lures of excitement, of lucrative jobs, of fighting for justice and freedom, of fat profits. Anyone who makes or sells anything, as Charles Beard points out, is in a position to be kidded into believing that war will be a good thing for his business.

But in the end, it is the Merchant of Death who engineered the rotten mess that makes the 400% profit and we are the ones who pay for it. We lend money to ourselves and our allies (who later find themselves unable to pay back) in order to have a short burst of prosperity. When it's all over, there is a little matter of twenty-two billion dollars in red ink which we'll leave, in our last will and testament, to our grandchildren. We fight to line the pockets of profiteers and are left holding the bag.

But they don't tell us that at the time. We have to find it out when it is too late to do anything about it. Years later we wake up at the bottom of the pile to find that the victor has lost as well as the conquered.

The world is bound to lose because every nation is saddled with staggering debts and a new crop of hatreds and rivalries is generated that only prepares the way for another catastrophe. Wealth is not created but destroyed. The young and fit are blown to pieces, or maimed, blinded and crazed. Those who return physically intact are cynical and sour when they discover what it was all about. War sweeps the world with a plague of savagery, and destruction becomes an end in itself.

Science, when properly used, has infinite possibilities for improving man's condition. But it is the great double-edged sword and, employed in the service of war, it can drive us back into the mud from which we have so painfully emerged.

The next world war, which we can keep America from entering if we guard against it, may turn the clock fifty centuries. Is the temporary gain if economic advantage worth it? There are two sides to many questions. But not to this one. The negative answer, unless we are enemies of civilization, is the only possible one.

Emil Rieve Out For McMahon's Toga As Pres.

WINSTON-SALEM, Aug. 12.—Emil Rieve, national president of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, will be a candidate for the

presidency of the United Textile Workers, it was intimated at the North Carolina Federation of Labor convention here yesterday.

R. R. Lawrence, North Carolina labor president, in introducing Rieve as a speaker today, said he was "reliably informed" that the hosiery leader would be a candidate at the textile union convention in New York in September.

ROOSEVELT HERE ON SEPTEMBER 10TH

The date and time of President Roosevelt's visit to Charlotte has been definitely set at around 5 p.m., Thursday, September 10th, the President to remain an hour or an hour and a half. A big ovation is being planned for the president and it is more than likely that Charlotte will have 25,000 visitors on that day. The merchants will reap a harvest, the hotels and restaurants will do a land-office business, and the people will get to see and hear Mr. Roosevelt in a short talk. If all signs point right Charlotte is going to give the President a rousing reception.