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# The Charlotte Labor Journal

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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## A Fight on Unionism Is Being Made By Tobacco Steel and Auto Groups

By CHESTER M. WRIGHT

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The year-end holiday week brought to light one of the most amazing industrial situations ever recorded in national history.

Approximately 100 southern textile mills have declared their need for machinery to fix standards, as NRA did, declaring this necessary to their life and stability.

Meanwhile the great steel and automobile industries have made it clear that they are determined to resist any "interference" with their "right" to do exactly as they please, which is primarily a declaration of resistance to unionism.

The automobile industry likewise has made clear a similar position. Though doing a record-breaking business, both of these giants of industry have declared their determination to stick to company unionism.

**Tobacco In Same Group**

But another giant has been ignored in this casting up of the situation. The great tobacco group that has fought labor as hard and bitterly as steel and automobiles have fought it, stands today in exactly the same position. The big cigarette group, known as the Big Four, are united solidly against unionization. With the clever and astute Clay Williams as chief diplomat, they seek to keep out of the front row in the controversy, evidently preferring to cover their warfare under a cloak of silence while steel and automobiles "take the rap" of public discussion and condemnation. But they occupy the same position as the more open opponents of labor in the nationwide line of conflict.

While in steel and automobiles there is no outstanding recourse for consumers, in the field of tobacco and cigarettes there are fully unionized brands.

In the field of automobiles, the La Follette Senate committee is preparing for a thorough investigation of important revelations.

Lined up with these union-hating giants there is a portion of the oil industry, notably the Rockefeller, Mellon and Pew interests, with Standard, Gulf and Sun. But here also there are the companies across the line, unionized, led by Sinclair, with the best agreement of them all.

Never before has the struggle for unionization taken in, over such a wide sweep, the giants of industry in all fields.

**Big Developments Coming**

A notable break in the anti-union line came with the election in General Electric, with the company announcing in advance that it would abide by the results of an election under NLRB auspices. In the election the company union was badly beaten.

The coming two or three months will see tremendous developments, without doubt, in this battle of giants. But those giants that have dealt with unions know that the coming of unionism brings into industry a fairness and a spirit of co-operation that is of inestimable value, with all the fruits so often proclaimed by the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, pioneer in labor-management co-operation and marked as an outstanding road, largely for that reason.

## No 'Dictator' Says Sloan Shall Run Gen. Motors In Referring To Labor

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., president of General Motors Corporation, said last night in a message to employees, "Have no fear that any union or any labor dictator will dominate the plants" of the company.

He made public a notice to be posted today on all bulletin boards in all domestic factories of the company saying the "real issue" in General Motors' current difficulties with labor was "will a labor organization run the plants of General Motors corporation or will the management continue to do so?"

"You are being told that you had better join a union," the statement went on. "You are being told that if you do not join now it will be impossible for you to work in General Motors plants came up from a worker's bench. You know them. You see them on the job every day. Wages, working conditions, honest collective bargaining, have little if anything to do with the underlying situation. They are simply a smoke screen to cover the real objective."

General Motors, Sloan went on will not recognize any union as the sole bargaining agency of its workers, to the exclusion of all others. General Motors will continue to recognize, for the purpose of collective bargaining, the representatives of its workers, whether union or non-union."

As Sloan issued his statement Collins and Aikman corporation, manufacturers of upholstery fabrics of Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, announced through Arthur Kudner, Inc., here that 4,000 of its employees would go on a short time basis "due to labor troubles in the automobile industry."

## SUMMARY OF THE AUTO SITUATION

On Tuesday the Federal agencies took a hand in an effort to conciliate labor-management differences in plants of the General Motors corporation and affiliates. A general stoppage is said to be under way by Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile workers, while Mr. Sloane refuses "dictatorship," or collective bargaining, yet a conference between industry forces is being sought, with probably success, by Secretary of Labor Perkins, to which the workers are agreeable.

The special Senate committee on civil liberty violations at Washington announced it has subpoenaed records of General Motors, and that "high officials" of the corporation may be called to testify at hearings beginning January 14.

(Summing up the strike situation as of Tuesday night the Associated Press gave out the following):

The spread of United Automobile Workers' strikes to General Motors corporation plants at Janesville, Wis., raised to 44,500 the number of corporation employees idle.

By cities, they included: Flint, Mich., Fisher Body plants No. 1 and 2, Chevrolet and Buick assembly lines, 15,500.

Anderson, Ind., Guide Lamp and Delco-Remy, 11,800. Cleveland, Fisher Body, 7,000.

Kansas City, Fisher Body and Chevrolet, 2,500. Janesville, Wis., Fisher Body and Chevrolet, 2,500.

Norwood, Ohio, Fisher Body and Chevrolet, 2,200. Atlanta, Ga., Fisher Body and Chevrolet, 1,300.

Toledo, Ohio, Chevrolet, 1,000. Harrison, N. J., Hyatt Roller Bearing, 700.

In addition to these, several hundred were idle because of strikes in other automotive plants called by U. A. W. members, and estimated thousands were out of work in factories supplying automobile manufacturing plants.

## "Ramona" At The New Criterion

In no detail did Director Henry King compromise with the historical records in filming "Ramona," 20th Century Fox picture produced in the new perfected technicolor currently at the New Criterion Monday-Tuesday.

This beautiful picturization of Helen Hunt Jackson's famous novel of the California of yesterday carries the full conviction of realism.

Many of the articles of jewelry worn by Loretta Young, featured as Ramona, are genuine antiques. Many of the "Ramona" Indians, engaged from neighboring reservations, wear ornaments handed down by their forefathers, natives of this part of the country.

## CHATTING

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A new year is beginning, and it will likely be several days before we become accustomed to writing it 1937, but gradually it will become as natural as did 1936, and henceforth we will keep the dates right.

This is being written the day after Christmas, and the temperature is very mild, has been all day long, and really seems more like late summer than near the end of the year, and there comes to mind thoughts of some winters of years ago in the northern country in boyhood days.

In those days of long ago, about the time of Thanksgiving, cold and ice and snow were already there, and if skating was not in order on that day the weather man had slipped up on his job. The marshy lands were all frozen over and fairly good skating was to be had. By Christmas time the rivers usually were frozen from shore to shore, the ground covered with snow from several inches to as many feet in depth, and ice strong enough to bear hundreds of skaters at all times, and there was no question of the people taking part in that delightful winter sport. The shallow rivers usually froze to the bottom, and there was no danger of breaking through the ice on them, but the deeper rivers were not always so safe. Air holes would sometimes appear, later freezing over much thinner than was the balance of the river, and unless properly marked one was in danger of going through, which was always dangerous, as there was no certainty one would not come up under heavy ice and drown.

As for snow, it was always plentiful enough for sleighing and sledding and many times rain would come, then freeze again, making a heavy crust of ice on top of the snow strong enough to bear the weight of men and boys, and that is the time boys would take their sleds to the hill tops and ride to the bottom over fields, and many times over fence tops. Occasionally a soft rider would appear unexpectedly and the sled may disappear from under the place who many times would be cut and scratched from broken ice on top of the snow. But little things like that made slight difference to the youth of that day, who usually was hardy and accustomed to hardship. He cheerfully began the task of digging out his sled and trying again the same thing, sometimes missing supper so he could take another ride. Many miles were traveled in this way. The boots frequently had red or blue decorations at the top, and the toes had a sheet of copper covering them for protection, but they would wear through, as the sled was guided by the toe as the rider lay flat on its top. If a thaw came during the day, it generally froze again at night, making the roads solid ice, such roads as existed at that time.

Automobiles were unknown in those days, and horses were hitched to heavy bob-sleds for general use, as wagons were of little use. They were hard to pull and would slide all over the road. Horses were shod with heavily spiked shoes, the better to grip the ice and pull. And what low the thermometer, horses would sweat pulling heavy loads. And what fun it was to fill the bed of a large sled with hay or straw, load it with happy, healthy young people, well clad, cover them with woolen blankets, and start out for the next town, where dancing or feasting would be in order for several hours, then the return ride home, arriving early in the morning, if perchance the driver did not lose the road, which many times happened when the snow was deep enough to cover the rail fences and packed hard enough to bear the weight. And if a snow storm was raging at the time, such danger was great and frequently occurred.

And now a few words about homes of that day. These homes were not so well built as are those of today, as science was not so far advanced. The conveniences of the present day were unknown. Wind blew in under the door, bringing snow with it, and many times it was necessary to sweep out quite a bit of snow before starting breakfast. There were few furnaces in cellars, many homes using fireplaces with logs as fuel, better homes having a heating stove, some ornamental, others built for heat only, no thought of ornamentation. Fires many times burned out during the night, and a cold reception many times greeted the first person out of bed. Frost half an inch thick on the door hinges and knobs. Drinking water in the bucket frozen over, as running water in houses was a rarity, and frequently it was necessary to take out a dishpan, fill it with snow, melt it on the kitchen stove, then take it out in the yard and pour it down the pump in order to thaw it out, before water could be drawn for daily use. Then perhaps, if we had coal, we walked several hundred feet from the house and carried it in buckets to keep the house warm.

Those of us living in up-to-date towns have little idea of the hardships endured by our parents and grandparents. Yet, these people knew little else but hard work, and it was not near so hard to them as this article would make it appear.

Finally came spring and the warm sunshine. With it came muddy roads and trashy yards, and there was much work to be done before we had those beautiful lawns and flowers which appear so early now, apparently with little or no labor.

Spend a few moments thinking of some of the conveniences we enjoy today and look upon them as absolute necessities. These people did not have them, yet many of them lived quite a long time, as some tombstones will tell you if you look at them.

Forgetting all the hardships of former days, let me say again  
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!

## Spencer Mill, Spindale, Refuses to Pay Average Of Other Mills; a Strike

SPINDALE, N. S.—(SFLNS.)—The weavers at the Spencer Mill went on strike last Friday when the management refused to grant their wage increase demands of "an average of the weekly rate being paid in other mills on cotton jobs in Rutherford County." The strike was 100 per cent effective among the weavers, the second and third shifts refusing to work after the first shift had walked off the jobs.

Led by a committee of three, A. M. Wyatt, A. M. Crawford, and H. D. Guinn, the weavers demanded an immediate increase in pay, and when the officials declared they would not raise their wages the weavers stopped off their looms shortly after noon to start 1937.

The workers are not organized and the strike came about because of the unusually low pay for the type work required. There are some 300 Draper looms and more than 200 automatic Staffords. The product is fancy shirt goods. The weavers on the Drapers run 18 looms per set and are paid 29c per 100,000 picks, while 33c per 100,000 picks is paid the Stafford weavers who also run 18 looms. Spokesmen for the weaver said top production would net only \$16.00 but in view of the fact that top production was not attainable, the average wage was only \$12.00 to \$14.00 per 40-hour week.

The jobs are all "fancy" and above average weaving skill is required of the weavers. Various people in close touch with the Spencer Mill situation have been expecting a strike of this nature for some time. No other cotton job in the country is as fancy as the shirting produced here, most of the other mills producing more or less plain materials. Weavers in the other mills earn more than the Spencer employees though, making from \$14.00 to \$20.00 for a loom load less, considering the materials, than is the case here. The supposed average for the other weavers is about \$18.00 per 40-hour week, and the Spencer weavers demanded at least this average, an increase of more than 30%. Most of the weavers declared they would not return to work for less than \$20.00 per week, however.

A group of the strikers called Paul R. Christopher, Organizer for the United Textile Workers, of Shelby, to come in and help them out in this situation Saturday afternoon. On going there, Christopher went into conference with a chosen group of the weavers and advised with them about what plans and strategy should be followed in their efforts to win the strike. It is understood that no attempts were made to organize the strikers in the textile workers' union, and because of lack of a meeting place no speeches were made to any meetings of the workers.

Most of the merchants and other business men in Spindale, and the workers in other Spindale mills sent the strikers word that they were behind them and urged the strikers to continue the siege until victory was won. The Spencer Mill is another of the group who recently announced wage increases. They worked this publicity stunt as other mills have. Last spring the weavers were cut 2c per

## Hostile Labor Interests Use Favorite Methods To Discredit Unionism

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Alleged violence in strikes is a favorite theme of which anti-Labor employers, the police and daily newspapers are united in making public and deploring. Hardly a day goes by in times of Labor unrest without the newspapers featuring headlines like these:

"Paint Thrown on Employer's Home." "Violence Flares in Transit Strike." "Two Killed as Guards Battle Pickets."

After reading such headlines and the articles written to bear them out, many readers are likely to blame striking workers and their friends for the violence.

The real source was disclosed in testimony before the L. Follette Civil Liberties committee in its investigation of Labor spies in industrial disputes, with Railway Audit and Inspection company as its subject. Here is the summary of some of the testimony:

E. J. Dade testified that he had been hired by the Railway Audit and Inspection company for the express purpose of creating disorder in strikes and thus discrediting the strikers in the eyes of the public.

There was a milk strike in Cleveland. Frank Tabor was the head of the Tabor Ice Cream company, whose employees had walked out. In order to stimulate resentment against the strikers and arouse sympathy for Tabor, who was the client of a spy service for which Dade was working, the latter and his strikebreaking associates daubed red paint on Tabor's home.

In the same strike, in order to make it appear that strikers were firing on the company guards, the guards fired on themselves. This emphasized the apparent necessity for more guards and more business for the concern that furnished these thugs.

In the strike of the employees of the Pittsburgh National Dairy company last year; guards were ordered to slug members of Trade Unions and thus induce a counter attack. Seven hundred strike breakers

were recruited during the Wisconsin Light and Power company strike in Milwaukee. The company provided them with axe handles to slug the strikers and turned live steam on the picket lines.

Double dealing is the regular practice of these spy concerns. The Railway Audit and Inspection company sent one of its spies into a refrigerator strike in New York City. He posed as a friend of the strikers and became the Union's publicity agent and at the same time, furnished the company daily reports on Union activities.

The testimony also revealed the R. A. I. and other spy services make a regular practice of using bribery and threats to persuade Union members to become spies.

Federal laboratories, Inc., is a subsidiary of the Railway Audit and Inspection company. According to the testimony this concern sold tear gas bombs, machine guns and other weapons to both companies and police for use in labor disputes. It was the practice of the company's spies to stir up violence. Therefore, it is easy to see how one branch of the business helped the other. It worked like this. The more spies and company guards there were to create violence, the more gas bombs and guns were required—and the more workers killed.

During the depression this un-American business netted the spy concern a profit of \$1,300,000, after paying its officers large salaries. The money was contributed by concerns which refused to pay their workers even a living wage.

## Lewis Places Blame On Empl'y's for Industrial Relations Now Existing

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—John L. Lewis, chairman of the committee on industrial organization, declared last week industrial relations problems are created, not by labor trouble, but by "employer trouble."

"That is something from which the wage earners are suffering," he said.

He said employers who talk about possible labor trouble interfering with industrial progress "ignore the fact that unless people have money with which to buy, the wheels of industry slow down, and profits, and likewise capital disappear."

Asserting "the stage is set," the mine labor leader, who heads a drive to unionize mass production industries, said:

"Industry can go forward with profit to its investors, and with security to our citizenship; or it can elect to destroy itself by blindly following its unreasoning prejudices, and refusing to conform to the modern concept of proper industrial relations."

Lewis said employers' failure to deal with their employees through collective bargaining and to grant "reasonable conditions" leads to labor unrest. He blamed "employer trouble" for recent strikes, especially in the automotive industry.

"Huge corporations, such as United States Steel and General Motors x x x have neither the moral nor the legal right to rule as autocrats over the hundreds of thousands of employees," he declared. "They have no right to transgress the law, which gives to the worker the right of self-organization and collective bargaining, x x x."

## MRS. HARRY BOATE RETURNS TO HOSPITAL

As was necessary due to the serious operation which Mrs. Harry Boate underwent last month, she returned to St. Peter's hospital Sunday afternoon for a further operation, and a this writing is reported as doing as well as could be expected. It is hoped by her friends that her recovery will be speedy.

**CENTRAL LABOR UNION SENDS GREETINGS**  
The officers of the Charlotte Central Body and Organized Labor in Charlotte, wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.  
J. H. FULLERTON, Pres.  
GILMER H. HOLTON, Secy. & Treas.  
Attest.

**Central Labor Union**

The regular meeting Wednesday night, Jan. 6, was fairly well attended. One new delegate, H. C. Alexander, of the Musicians Union, was obligated. All crafts working capacity. Organizer Shelly Walden, of the Int. Moulders Union, was present, asking co-operation in obtaining new contracts. Parks and playgrounds for an increased tax levy was endorsed, and more attention was requested for the "forgotten areas" of Charlotte in this endeavor. The meeting

was more of a lining up of affairs for work during the year than a business one, and the prospects are bright for the accomplishment of much good for the masses in the days to come. It was reported that the Labor Non-Partisan League will meet in Salisbury Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2 P. M. J. H. Fullerton presided.

In Germany there are bee farms where the insects are raised for their poison. It is extracted and sold as a cure for rheumatism.

A balloon does not rise because it is light, but because the air under it is heavier than the gas inside.

The beaver became extinct in England about 600 years ago.