

Official Organ Central Labor Union; standing for the A. F. of L.

# The Charlotte Labor Journal

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1937

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READER

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## DRAFT OF HISTORY OF HOSIERY WORKERS UNION IS INTERESTINGLY WRITTEN, COVERING A QUARTER OF A CENTURY

(Taken in Part from Fortune Magazine)

(Continued from Last Week)

To appreciate the unique quality of the alliance just sketched out, one must view it against the background of organized labor in general. There are plenty of dramatic contrasts—indeed, there is little else. One thinks of New England textiles, where the unions insisted on keeping up wages, even if the continuance of those wages meant that many a mill would have to liquidate and pay no wages at all. But suppose that the union had taken a drastic wage cut, had forced an offensive and defensive alliance with the unionized manufacturers to fight cheap non-union mills. One thinks of the union forced through the Jacksonville agreement, establishing such high union wages as to stimulate the opening of countless non-union, low-wage mines. Suppose that in 1927, when this agreement expired, the United Mine Workers had not insisted on keeping wage rates to the same exorbitant level, thus forcing hundreds of union mines to close down. Suppose it had signed instead such a document as those the Hosiery Union signed in 1929, in 1930 and in 1931! One thinks of the railroads, where the brotherhoods have refused to take a wage cut since the depression started, have recently underlined this refusal despite the terrific decline in even the strongest roads' earnings. Suppose, however, that in 1928, when the truck and bus competition became obvious, the broom competition had accepted a 10 per cent cut to help fight the truck-bus competition. All these suppositions are fantastic, and yet they have more than come true in the full-fashioned hosiery industry.

The farseeing policies of this Union are the result of remarkable leadership, as we have already seen. But these policies would have borne no fruit had not the great army of Union members obeyed their commanders. Now, as every labor leader knows, it is the rank and file of this Union that has followed its leaders through thick and thin, wage cuts to right of them, wage cuts to left of them, with a discipline worthy of the Light Brigade.

The Union army is well-disciplined. An even more important factor is its morale. For it is with all the progressive energy, and courage of youth. Since knitters must have keen eyesight, since the industry is young itself, the majority of its members are under thirty. They are a comparatively intelligent lot. Though their wages are at present deflated, they are more accustomed to the hosiery workers were, and are, on a mental plane far above what is suggested by the term, "mill hand." It would be overoptimistic to say that they are educated up to their leaders, as yet. The principle of the mutuality and cooperation between Union and employer is still somewhat beyond their grasp. They understood Big Frank McKosky when he answered a manufacturer's complaint as to the exceptionally high wage rates in his plant by setting that manufacturer's rates as the standard for the entire district. But they did not

understand Gus Geiges when in March, 1928, he reversed the process and lowered certain wages a bit in order to achieve for the first time in the history of the Union a uniform wage rate.

The army does not wholly understand, but it is young and progressive and it follows its leaders with enthusiasm. Well do its leaders know this, and well do they know how to direct that enthusiasm into the proper channels. A classic instance of inspired leadership occurred a few years ago. The August, 1931, cut, coming on top of the preceding one, was too much for the youthful enthusiasm of some 5,000 Union workers in New Jersey mills. Indignant, they walked out on an outlay strike. Business agent of the Union in that district was Carl Holderman, first vice-president of the Union and a gentleman well skilled in practical psychology. With mastery and adroitness, he persuaded the strikers that the real enemy was not the Union nor its manufacturers but the Berkshire Mills at Reading, Pennsylvania, the mighty champion of the anti-Union forces. He proposed a campaign against the Reading "fortress"; the Union sent down some Pied Pipers from its Philadelphia office to lead the excursion; and most of the 5,000 outlay strikers moved on Reading en masse. After an eight-day siege they returned to New Jersey their indignation safely vented, and went back to work.

Yet there is more to it than discipline, more to it than enthusiasm. The Union leaders have successfully sold their followers a campaign whose objectives are very much in the future and whose sacrifices are increasingly present. Their chief selling point has been "stabilization by unionization." They have succeeded to some extent in making the knitter see beyond his machine into the broader interplay of economic forces. They have demonstrated to him that if the industry were one hundred per cent unionized, wage cuts would be no more, and price cuts (which depend largely on the manufacturer being able to take the cut out of the worker's hides in the form of wage cuts) would be checked. What is more, the union claims that with every worker in the industry organized it would be able to regulate production by forbidding its members to work night shifts or overtime when stocks on hand grew threateningly high. That Labor and not capital should band together to keep down production is a distinctly novel idea, and one which has probably never occurred to the harassed copper and oil men, but at least promises some measure of stability in a troubled industry. Against "stabilization by organization" the non-union party can advance only the "dog eat dog" theory of competition. A theory which has reduced the industry to its present state of chaos.

(Continued next week)

**AND WON**  
Billy: Who was the last man to box John L. Sullivan?  
Silly: The undertaker.

## ROBINSON SAYS "SIT-DOWN" STRIKES ARE STATE PROBLEMS AFTER A TALK WITH ROOSEVELT

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Senator Robinson of Arkansas, the Democratic leader, said after a conference with President Roosevelt Monday that no condition "has so far arisen" which would warrant Federal intervention in sit-down strikes.

The only strike situation in which Federal action might be invoked, he said, are the following:

1. Where State authorities under the Federal law ask the service of Federal agencies to preserve law and order and to prevent violence.

Robinson said that except in instances where one of these conditions exists the Federal government cannot act under the Constitution or under a decree of courts.

"It is felt," he said "that the sit-down strike situation in a general sense is improving."

Robinson made the statement after he and Vice-President Garner had talked for two hours with Mr. Roosevelt.

Speaker Bankhead and Representative Rayburn, Democrat of Texas, House majority leader, had conferred earlier. Garner said only that he was "deaf, dumb and blind."

Earlier Bankhead said only the general legislation situation was discussed. He declined to say whether the conversation touched on sit-down strikes.

Secretary Perkins told the President she believed the sit-down movement would be "on the wane."

## PERTINENT COMMENT ON TIMELY TOPICS CHATting BY HARRY BOATE

It has been a favorite custom of many communities, especially those which are in a hurry to boost population by bringing new industries into their midst, to make many inducements that will allure corporations from one town to another. Dealing on that subject the Literary Digest of March 27 has a very interesting article, part of which follows:

In Vicksburg, Miss., last week, long-faced merchants formed excited knots outside their shops. The Vicksburg Garment factory had shut its doors to thwart a sit-down strike of 200 \$7- and \$8-a-week girl employes. The shut-down had dried up a payroll of \$3,000 monthly.

This was bad enough. Worse still, the merchants had dug into their pockets to the extent of \$80,000 to finance the plant and so to lure a northern manufacturer to Vicksburg. Now their \$80,000 investment was imperiled.

In Raleigh, N. C., 700-odd miles away, state officials knit their brows over the "go-getter" activities of some of their own municipalities and warned:

"There is reason to believe that several North Carolina communities will have the opportunity of landing cotton garment manufacturing establishments. The community will be required to put up a few thousand in cash, provide quarters at low rent, or no rent at all, waive taxes for five years, pay water and power bills for the same period.

"We most urgently suggest that every community to which such an 'opportunity' is offered to be very careful about signing on the dotted line. Many communities in the state are sick of such bargains and wish they had never heard of such establishments."

To observers the shut-down at Vicksburg and the warning at Raleigh were part of the mounting evidence of the South's industrial growing pains. At a swiftly accelerating pace factory chimneys are rising in Dixie, where only cotton and sugar cane and tobacco had risen before. The Vicksburg and Raleigh incidents furthermore pointed out another economic phenomenon—the migration of industry in general and the flight of Northern cotton garment factories to the South in particular.

The spectacle of industry on the march is not new. New England, for example, boasted prior to 1900 of 90 per cent of the textile spindles whirring in this country. Today New England can record only 25 per cent of the active spindle hours. The South, for the most part, has gained what New England has lost.

The trek of textiles southward is no less impressive than the march of shoes away from the Atlantic seaboard. Shoe production once centered in Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. By 1914 almost half of production in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire was reduced to one-third of the nation's output.

The paper industry is turning its face southeast where fast-growing pine abounds and may soon become the South's newest great immigrant industry. Production there of kraft paper, according to Business Week, has leaped from zero to one-third of the nation's entire output. The Union Bag and Paper Co., the Container Corporation of America, the International Paper and Power Co., the Meade Paper and Pulp Co., are putting more than \$20,000,000 into plants in the region.

Similarly rayon manufacture is making its home in Dixie, to be near sources of pine and cotton-lint for cellulose and acetate. The Viscose Corporation of America and the rayon division of the du Pont Company are expanding plant space in Virginia. Silk-hosiery mills, furniture factories and packing plants also are on the move. The \$500,000 Gudahy Packing Co. plant at Albany is the pride of Georgia. Swift & Co. is a relatively recent arrival at Moultrie, Ga.

Why do industries move? They move in search of less burdensome taxes, of less restrictive labor laws. They move also to be nearer to raw material supplies, transportation and power facilities.

In States like Wisconsin, Massachusetts and New York, pioneers in labor and other social legislation, the flight of industry has alarmed governors and mayors and they are endeavoring to stop the flight. Labor industries, too, know what it is to worry over "runaway" industries. In Milwaukee the Weyenberg Shoe Co. posted a bulletin board notice which warned that the company would leave the city if unionization were attempted. Employers thereupon promptly dropped a carefully planned unionization drive. But the company moved anyway. Merrill, Wis., offered it a rent-free, tax-free building, and even lent it \$10,000 to help move its machinery.

In New York City last January the Blue Dale Dress Co. signed a contract with a labor union, then later packed its machines and made off to Archibald, Pa. A Supreme Court Justice in effect ordered the company back to New York. The dress company's contract with the union had contained a clause binding the company not to move out of the five-cent street car zone.

The article further gives account of cities offering gifts to corporations, and some cases where cities have refused offers for corporations. All in all, it is one article of real interest to all laboring men, and regret is here expressed that lack of space prohibits publication of same in entirety.

## GREEN WARNS AGAINST "SIT-DOWN" STRIKES, SAYING NEW STRATEGY IS ILLEGAL; DETRIMENTAL TO LABOR

WASHINGTON, March 29.—William Green, American Federation of Labor president, asserted yesterday the sit-down method of strike "must be disapproved by the thinking men and women of labor."

In a statement issued at A. F. of L. headquarters here, Green said "I publicly warn labor against this illegal procedure."

Word came from a White House conference that no condition "has so far arisen" to warrant Federal intervention in sit-down strikes. Senate Majority Leader Robinson, one of four congressional leaders who talked with President Roosevelt, made that comment as he left the White House.

Representative Dies, Democrat of Texas, who advocates Federal legislation to ban sit-downs, declared that "the government has made a mistake in refusing to take a firm and courageous stand against sit-down strikes."

Green, in his statement, said the labor federation never had approved the sit-down procedure "because there is involved in its application grave implications detrimental to labor's interest." He explained this by adding:

"First, public opinion will not support sit-down strikes. That means labor loses public support when any part of it engages in sit-down strikes.

"Second, temporary advantages gained through the sit-down strikes will inevitably lead to permanent injury. The public generally will not long tolerate the illegal seizure of property."

If persisted in it will through State and Federal law-making bodies force the enactment of legislation providing for compulsory arbitration, the incorporation of unions and other repressive forms of legislation which will deprive organized labor of freedom of association and liberty of action within the limitations of both moral and statutory law.

"Labor must be permitted to picket when strikes occur. It may be greatly restricted and perhaps denied the exercise of these elemental rights if it persists in engaging in sit-down strikes."

## LABOR JOURNAL ON SALE AT ALL DIXIE NEWS STANDS

The Charlotte Labor Journal beginning this week will be found on sale each Friday at the following places controlled by the Dixie News Company: Buster Brown News stand at the Square; Subway News stand, 315 E. Trade St. Service News stand, 410 S. Tryon St.; Rex news stand, 313 W. Trade St.; Tryon News stand, 305 N. Tryon St.

If you want real labor news read the Labor Journal

## MR. AND MRS. FRANK BARR ARE CHARLOTTE VISITORS

Last week-end Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barr were back in the old home town from down Columbia, S. C., way, where they have been located for some months. For the next four or five months they will be stationed at Summerville, S. C., where Brother Barr's duties called him. They are both pleasantly remembered and held in high esteem by the craftsmen of Charlotte. Mr. Barr, of the Plumbers and Steamfitters, being president of Central Labor Union until about a year ago.

The Union Label is the O. K. mark of quality.

Only half the battle is won, when you bargain collectively. Don't forget to BUY collectively.

## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS AND BUSINESS MEN

A resolution adopted last year as to The Labor Journal and solicitation of funds in the name of Central Labor Union was brought out of the minutes and republished as information. The resolution reads as follows:

"Resolved, That we publish in The Charlotte Labor Journal, that we do not condone any solicitation of advertising except for The Charlotte Labor Journal, purporting to represent labor, unless over the signature of the secretary of the Charlotte Central Labor Union.

## GOOGE HOLDS THAT LABOR BODIES WHOSE DELEGATES ARE FROM NON-DUES PAYING ORGANIZATIONS TO A.F.L. BARRED FROM CENTRAL BODY

(Knoxville Labor News, March 25)  
Reviewing graphically the history of the differences between the American Federation of Labor and the national and international unions which set up the Committee for Industrial Organization and subsequently were suspended from the Federation, George L. Googe, Southern representative of the A. F. of L. told the Central Labor Union Monday evening that Central bodies and State Federations could not expect a pledge of allegiance from local unions whose national or international unions are in good standing with the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Googe has come to Knoxville as the result of complaints of members of local unions concerning an order of the Executive Committee that all locals should, in writing, renew their pledge to the American Federation of Labor, and which resulted in the delegates of four local unions quitting the Central body.

The A. F. of L. spokesman subscribed specifically to the regularity of this letter, procedure, inasmuch, he said, that the national and international unions involved were not dues paying members of the Federation and therefore their locals could not consistently continue in Central Labor Unions unless they were loyal to the Federation rather than to their national or international unions comprising the Committees for Industrial Organization.

It was Mr. Googe's hope that every delegate of the C. L. U. was loyal to the Federation, and "we are going to expect this of you and your officers." "The expulsion of a delegate can only be had," he continued, "after the filing of written charges with the delegate's local union when his activities are detrimental to the A. F. of L." he said, "and we are going to expect such action or act ourselves" he continued.

Mr. Googe made it plain that delegates from CIO affiliates would be welcomed into the Central and State bodies, if in good standing, despite suspension of their parent organization if they will pledge loyalty to the A. F. of L. and its policies and regulations. "Certainly," he said later, "we cannot harbor enemies within our ranks at this time."

The speaker foresaw the early convening of a special convention of the American Federation of Labor when a clear-cut policy rule will be developed.

Mr. Googe turned from discussion of Federation policy and the rights of the A. F. of L. would not countenance any censorship of the Labor Press which is owned or controlled in part by Central bodies. "We expect them to print all news concerning labor, but we do not expect them to color their accounts in any manner detrimental to the American Federation of Labor."

"The A. F. of L. and my office," he continued, "are going to scan the

Labor Press closely from now on, and where the press breaks from the principles of the A. F. of L. policy we will take action even though the Central body or State body does not." He said that while some members here may have been irked over articles concerning the CIO as they appeared in The Labor News there was no ground for complaint inasmuch as they did not argue for or against CIO, and they are not a circumstance, he said, to what has appeared in numerous Labor newspapers of the country in the past year.

Mr. Googe conducted a question forum at the close of his address and cleared numerous points for the delegates.

## DANISH PLUMBER USES EELS TO CLEAR PIPES

COPENHAGEN, March 27.—A Danish plumber in Jutland has found a new use for eels. He inserts an eel in a pipe clogged with dirt or which has become airlocked. The eel wriggles through—and the pipe is cleared.

## Rock Hill Textile Plants Are Back To 40-Hr. Week

ROCK HILL, S. C., March 30.—Several local textile plants yesterday announced a return from 50 to 40-hour week shifts, while others revealed plans for a similar readjustment as soon as certain difficulties can be worked out.

Making the change today from two 50-hour to two 40-hour shifts were the Industrial and Highland Park mills. It was understood that a notice to the same effect was posted at the Aragon, but no official announcement was made.

Two of the city's textile mills, the Wymojo and the Cutler, have operated on 40-hour shifts for the last few years, and will continue to do so.

Practically all textile plants here have increased wages within recent weeks.

## A. F. OF L. MAKING GREAT GAINS IN MEMBERSHIP SAYS MORRISON; 300,000 NEW MEMBERS IN 7 MONTHS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The successful organization activities of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated national and international unions since July, 1933, and especially since September 1, 1936, were revealed in the following statement by Frank Morrison, Secretary-Treasurer of the Federation:—

"The A. F. of L. membership paid and reported for March, 1937, is 3,731,460, which shows an increase of 1,604,664, over the membership for the year ending August 31, 1933.

"The affiliated unions, including the local trade and federal labor unions, and not including the ten National and international unions that stand automatically suspended since September 5, 1936, shows an increase since September 1, 1936, of 308,967 paid and reported members over the average membership for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1936.

"The sentiment for organization is running high and we have been receiving and issuing during the past four months a greater number of charters than has been received since the month of June, 1934.

## WOMEN'S UNION LABEL LEAGUE TO HAVE PARTY ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

The meeting of Central Labor Union, on the second Wednesday of this month, will be given over to the ladies of the Women's Union Label League for a social meeting. Refreshments, music, probably a little dancing and a good time will be in store for all. Be on hand with the wife and kiddies, or come single-handed if you are not encumbered.

Some archeologists contend that the Sahara Desert was not a populous country.

## Supreme Court Goes In Reverse

The court reversed itself and, by a five to four decision, upheld the right of states to fix minimum wages for women.

It unanimously sustained the revised Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage act, making billions of dollars of farm indebtedness eligible to three-year moratoriums.

In another unanimous decision the justices upheld the railway labor act guaranteeing collective bargaining to rail workers.

The minimum wage decision touched off sharp Senate controversy over President Roosevelt's proposal to reorganize the high tribunal.—Associated Press.

## Increased Pay For More Than 111,000 Workers In N. C. Mills

A news story Tuesday says that approximately 110,000 Carolina Textile workers went to their jobs yesterday under an increased wage scale which will amount to about 10 per cent more money than they have been getting.

Most of the wage increases announced by textile manufacturers of the Carolinas in the last two or three weeks were said to be increases of 10 per cent. The majority were effective March 29 and thus the wage advances will be made in the next pay envelope.

The wage increase is said to be general in the industry with the exception of the combed yarn mills, which are said to have been paying better wages and working on better schedules than most of the spinning mills. The probability that an increase for these mills, which are centered in Gastonia, will be announced soon was being discussed by various manufacturers yesterday.

Magistrate: What induced you to strike your wife?  
Husband: Well, your Wushup, she 'ad 'er back to me, the frying pan was 'andy, and the back door was open, so I thought I'd take me chance.