

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

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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Truthful, Honest, Impartial

Endorsed by the N. C. State Federation of Labor

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

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YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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ALABAMA COAL MINERS SAY LEWIS "SOLD THEM DOWN THE RIVER;" CALLS IT CRIME AGAINST THE UNION

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 22.—"It is the Black Crime of 1939," was the answer that a veteran coal miner here gave to a reporter when asked what he thought of the contracts signed with commercial coal companies by John L. Lewis for the United Mine Workers, and under Lewis' direction the contracts signed by the UMW officers in the Birmingham district.

"It is a crime against the Union, a crime against the members and a crime against freedom and democracy," the miner said. "The miners had 26 demands in the original proposed agreement, and John Lewis waived and surrendered every demand of the miners in order to get the closed shop feature in the contract, the miner pointed out.

"Not only that," he said "but the contract contains the penalty provision, and we cannot make a noise nor utter a word of protest against any condition that may be imposed upon us during the coming two years, nor can we re-open the contract during that period, no matter what inflation might do to us. We've simply been sold down the river by John Lewis for the sole right of the closed shop, and all that he wanted with that clause was to enable him to lay assessments upon just whenever and in whatever amounts he wants to. We're helpless now, and it is a crime, a black crime," he said.

In the captive mines operated here by the T. C. I., an open contract was signed covering only the small CIO membership in these mines. The American Federation of Labor Miners' Unions in the properties of the T. C. I., and in other captive mines, are negotiating contracts for the A. F. of L. membership.

The miners of the Birmingham district are most resentful. They lost 48 days' work during the negotiations, and then had to go back to work with a contract that did not get them one single advancement in wages, improvement in working conditions, or any other thing of value of any kind. All that John Lewis got, as stated by the irate miner, was the closed shop agreement which, as stated by the miner above quoted, "got nothing for the miners for the time lost and suffering endured, but did put us in bondage under John Lewis, so he can assess us whenever he wants to. And to get this right to assess us, he signed away every right we have to strike by agreeing to insert the penalty clause, so now if conditions arise that we can't stand, we dare not protest, for we will be penalized a dollar a day each if we do."

So strong is the feeling of resentment and revolt among the miners against Lewis that some of the local officials of the UMW are known to be uneasy about the situation facing them.

Ladies Of Typo. Auxiliary Enjoy Monday's Meeting With Mrs. Kumpie

The Women's Auxiliary of Charlotte Typographical Union had one of its most enjoyable meetings on Monday night of this week with Mrs. J. E. Kumpie acting as hostess. The meeting was one of business, yet the social contact was not forgotten by the ladies, and the gracious hostess did not stint on hospitality.

The gist of the meeting, of course, was to devise ways and means of raising funds for the Auxiliary's delegate, Mrs. W. R. Cashwell, to the Fort Worth, Texas, convention of the I. T. U. Auxiliary, which meets in conjunction with the I. T. U. The home was decorated with sweet peas and roses, with "a bouquet" for all present.

The next meeting was announced for Wednesday of this week with Mrs. Hugh Sykes, 1701 E. Boulevard, at which time a card party was given, which resulted in adding much to the delegate fund. A fish fry is

60,000 Aircraft Workers Soon To Be Called For

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Sixty thousand skilled workers in the aircraft industry in addition to the forty thousand already employed will be required to meet the expanded military and naval program of the Government, according to the report of President Roosevelt's interdepartmental committee on mechanics' training for that industrial group.

Planned for early in June, announcement of which will be made at a later date.

One of the features that was frowned upon by all the ladies present was the resignation tendered by Mrs. Robert White as secretary of the Auxiliary. Mrs. White has served for 10 years in this capacity, and it is hoped by every member of the Auxiliary that she may be prevailed upon to continue in that capacity.

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INTER. LABOR OFFICE AT GENEVA SUGGESTS REDUCTION OF HOURS BE POSTPONED AND REFERRED BACK; 25 GOVERNMENTS MAKE REPLY

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.—In a report on reduction of hours of work in industry and commerce which will be submitted to the International Labor Conference when it opens in Geneva on June 8, the International Labor Office suggests that the question be postponed and referred back to the Governing Body for reconsideration at a later date.

The report discloses that of 25 governments which have replied to a questionnaire sent out last autumn by the ILO only 7 governments favor a 40-hour week. 9 others are definitely opposed to any reduction of the work week below 48 hours and the remainder, while favoring the principle of a shorter work week declared that they could not contemplate a reduction at this time.

The report points out that in the present state of political insecurity and economic instability throughout a great part of the world, governments hesitate to assume an international obligation at this time to reduce hours of work in industry and

commerce.

"It is obvious," says the report, "that they wish to remain free, in order to be able to meet any obligations that may be suddenly imposed by the requirements of national military and economic defense."

"The International Labor Organization cannot ignore the present situation. Thus the ILO is of the opinion that, unless there is a very marked change for the better in the situation during the next months, the Conference would do well to postpone the discussion on the generalization of the reduction of hours of work in industry and a request to enter it again on the agenda when the prospects of success are better."

"The present situation is altogether exceptional and cannot be other than temporary. When it becomes possible to build up a genuine political and economic peace, the problem of reducing hours of work will be increasingly important and will have to be examined internationally in all its aspects."

ANOTHER BRINSON CO. HEADED FOR LABOR TROUBLE—TO TURN CO. UNION INTO AN A. F. L. OF UNIT

ANOTHER PRISONER—18 d c ATLANTA, Ga., May 22.—Atlanta trade unionists are planning real assistance to the truck drivers fired last week by the Atlantic Motor Lines, and the truck drivers of the Southern Oil Transportation company, Wilmington, N. C., who have been on strike since last October. R. L. Brinson, of High Point, N. C., is head of both trucking companies.

Brinson's drivers on the Atlantic States Motor Lines, running from Atlanta to Baltimore and points East, met last week for the purpose of turning their company union into a local union chartered by the Teamsters and Chauffeurs International Union. Fifteen of the drivers were fired, and the superintendent who did the firing is said to have made the bold statement that they were being discharged for joining the A. F. of L.

The case has already been laid before the Labor Board, while E. C. Curtis, United States Commissioner of Conciliation, is in High Point this week attempting to adjust the matter through conciliation. In the meantime, the Atlanta labor movement is getting into the situation with an expressed determination to help the truck drivers of the Brinson companies in their struggle for the right to belong to the union of their choice. Interesting developments are expected at an early date in this situation.

The American workman receives in real wages—that is, wages measured by purchasing power—five times as much as the Italian, nearly three times as much as the German, and twice as much as the British. And dictators allow no labor unions.

EDITORIAL

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING

With Geneva holding off the International Shorter Work Week Conference on account of chaotic conditions existing between the Nations; with Germany and Italy telling the "cock-eyed" world where to get off; with the C. I. O. arraying itself against the A. F. of L., causing disruption to a degree among the workers of America; with charges and counter charges being hurled at one another by the "Mule" and "Elephant" political factions; with the turmoil in the WPA and the PWA; the Arabs and the Jews in Palestine; the different factions politically, even among one-time bedfellows in our own balliwick; it must be said that we are upon turbulent times. Yea, one-time friends knifing each other; former enemies becoming bedfellows; royalty visiting our shores to be katowed to, etc., the average American citizen would like to know, if he ever comes out of the state of coma he has been in for some time, where he is at. Mark Sullivan tells us this; Roger Babson tells us that; Pearson and Allen in the "Merry-Go-Round" rear back on anything and everybody, while Tucker and McMillen, in "the Whirligig," make surveys that the public enjoys but brings pain to many of the "subjects" discussed; churches splitting and combining; concessions by and wooing of the different factions in many organizations; the U. S. Chamber of Commerce shooting the works against Roosevelt and the Administration, and our President retaliating with a counter-blow carrying force, it seems as if we are headed for the "demnition bow-wows," to use the saying of old Man Wittowsky, in the early days of Charlotte.

If only men could realize, both of high and low station, that we are all of the earth, and to the earth we return; that the conditions under which we are born makes the difference, unless those conditions are surmounted. It is true, as has been said of old, you can not get a thoroughbred race horse out of a plug, unless you breed it up through the mixing process; you can not get a thoroughbred Jersey out of a scrub cow; you can not make a silk purse out of a sow's ear—but you can breed up, educate and build up a finer race of humans, and we are marching toward that goal.

America—the melting pot—yes, America the home of the free and the land of the brave; discovered by Columbus, and first ruled by lords and over-lords, commissioned by a king who despised the "common herd," the "common herd" in turn despising him, and whose shores they left in the first instance as slaves or semi-slaves, to great degree; a few Gentry being among them, with grants for landed estates, and with toil placed upon the backs of the "subjects," in other words, serfdom in its worst form—until the day of reckoning came, all in the brewing years prior to 1776; prior to the Boston Tea Party; prior to the Twentieth of May Declaration in Charlotte, and the July 4th Declaration in Philadelphia. And yet, Autocracy and Aristocracy, in the guise of Liberty, took on more keenly the slave idea.

Time went on, the Civil War came, and our beloved South met its defeat; slaves were liberated after the Confederacy's defeat, and the South suffered humiliation never to be forgotten at the hands of the "Carpenters" and OTHERS; but it arose from the ashes to be the greatest section of a great Republic. Then Anarchism came, with the Haymarket riots in Chicago, with its Red Flag of destruction, and vandalism following in its wake; with the Mafia not far behind in murderous intrigues—but, America survived it all. And then along came the American Federation of Labor, ceasing only momentarily for the Knights of Labor, under Z. V. Powderly, to appear as a flaming comet and disappear into the Great Unknown. Then the A. F. of L. started on a March under Samuel Gompers that was to lead labor to emancipation from industrial slavery, and a march that was to make America safe, to great degree, from the termites that would eat in and destroy the foundation upon which our great Republic is built. It has educated along the lines of Labor! it has preached education for the underprivileged, as well as for our entire citizenship; it preached the elimination of immature children from the sweat-shops and mills, along with our frail and helpless women, saving them from long hours of suffering; it has preached loyalty to the Flag; it has preached conservatism; it has preached the right of man to a decent wage, to decent living conditions, to reasonable hours of toil; to recognition in society as man to man, as against class vs. class; it has preached the right of collective bargaining, as against the dictatorship of employer over employee; it has put forth the doctrine of Christianity; it has ever believed in and stood for averting war, whenever possible, yet yielding from the ranks of Labor a great portion of the "material" that served as gun-fodder so that munition manufacturers and those dealing in the necessities of life might stay, at home, "glorify" the boys at the front, and wax fat.

And the A. F. of L., tried and true, a body of workers who have weathered the gale, rode out the storm, is still, this writer believes, one of the greatest factors in the preservation of our independence. It has never had an "ism" other than Americanism; it has never been desirous of telling our Government where to get off, or on; it has only fought for elevation of the masses and the masses are the toilers to a great degree.

The Labor Journal would not detract one iota from Capital, for the men who control capital are versed well in the manipulation of figures, and worries and tribulations and sleepless nights are their portion, and were "Big Business" placed in the hands of the workers it would fare. Each man to his own task, each man to his own calling; some in high places, some in obscure places; but we can at least deal fairly one with the other, according to his works, his ability and his needs.

The writer did not start this editorial off as a diatribe, but merely to call attention to the confused conditions existing today among all peoples, and he wandered off in the lanes of thought and reminiscence; Thinking of the old days and the new, and wondering if today we are building upon the solid rock of our forefathers; wondering if commercialism has not drawn us from our fellowman and our God—other than the fellowship necessary for business and survival of the fittest.

MENACE OF THE UNEMPLOYED ARMY

The social menace of a permanent unemployed army was presented in trenchant terms in an address by William Allen White, editor of the Emporia (Kansas) Gazette, before the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors at Washington, D. C. Mr. White, who was the retiring president of the Society, deplored the fact that newspaper editors and owners, because of their "large property investment, have taken the side of property unconsciously in many cases," with the result that the newspaper property "seem to be unfair" to those who are seeking "new reforms in property rights."

Turning to the recognized menace of millions of unemployed workers to American institutions, Mr. White said: "We are treading on dangerous ground. A threat to democracy is abroad in the world. The unemployment problem in this nation remains unsolved and every day it is unsolved it is a menace to the stability of our institutions. We are developing a class-conscious proletariat which is dangerous. It was had enough in the days of the big bull market of the twenties to maintain the idle rich, but if in addition, we of the middle class now have to maintain the idle poor and then the idle rich, sooner or later our resources will be gone."

UNANSWERABLE INDICTMENT OF LABOR RELATIONS BOARD BY PADWAY SHOWS THAT BODY BENT ON A. F. L. DESTRUCTION

WASHINGTON, D. C.—One outstanding thing was clear at the conclusion of Judge Joseph A. Padway's five days' testimony before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor in favor of the amendments proposed by the A. F. of L. to the National Labor Relations Act contained in the Walsh bill introduced by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts in the Senate of the United States.

The purpose of the amendments is to change the Labor Act so that it will be impossible for any National Labor Relations Board to maladminister the Act, as the present Labor Board has done, with pronounced bias against the American Federation of Labor and in favor of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Relying on the record of the Labor Board as recorded in its decisions, Judge Padway built up hour after hour and day after day the well-defined purpose of the Board to outlaw legal A. F. of L. contracts with employers, to destroy craft unions which are basic in the A. F. of L., and by various other devices to injure the American Federation of Labor and promote the C. I. O.

In Labor Board decision after re-

cision, Judge Padway showed that the dates of elections to choose bargaining representatives had been arbitrarily fixed to favor the C. I. O. and discriminate against the A. F. of L. unions, that elections had been either postponed for month after month or called quickly for the same purpose, that the Board had voided A. F. of L. contracts only to have them declared valid by United States Courts, and that the Board's general policy has been one of hostility to the American Federation of Labor.

When Judge Padway's detailed indictment of the Labor Board's anti-A. F. of L. and pro-C. I. O. policy was finalized, there was not the shadow of a doubt in the minds of impartial observers who attended the hearings that the case for the American Federation of Labor amendments was complete and incontestable, and that Congress should write them into the National Labor Relations Act and thus make impossible for the present Labor Board or any future Labor Board to carry out a destructive policy against a great national and international labor organization like the American Federation of Labor, whose paid up members now approach nearly four million.

N.C. Youth Registers For Old-Age Pension Insurance Acc'ts Totaling 35,985

More than half of the 130,698 old-age insurance accounts set up in 1938 for worker in North Carolina were for men and women under 30, according to a statement issued today by G. N. Adams, Manager of the Social Security Board's field office at Charlotte, N. C. More of these account numbers, he stated, were assigned to young people between 15 and 19 than in other age group.

Mr. Adams called attention to the fact that workers who already had jobs in employment covered by Federal insurance got their numbers at the start of the program in 1937; and therefore, the bulk of the new applicants are naturally young men and women who are taking, or are about to take their first jobs.

The records show that applications for account numbers received during 1938 in North Carolina from young people 15 to 19 years of age amounted to 35,985. Some 31,921 applications

Local Employment Service Placed 131 On Jobs Last Week

Placements for the North Carolina State Employment service for the week ending May 20 were 131, according to a report released by District Manager Philip Bunn Saturday night. Of these placements, 113 were in private industry. White placements were 37. There were 163 new registrations.

For the corresponding week a year ago, there were 58 placements against 156 new registrations.

came from workers 20 to 24 years old, with those from 25 to 29 accounting for 19,298. This heavy demand for social security account numbers in 1938 was found among young people in all the States.

The preponderance of young applicants is particularly noticeable among women. About 55 per cent, or 22,870 of the women who applied for social security account cards in North Carolina during 1938, were under age 25. Of the State's 89,094 male applicants, 45,470 were under age 25.

A. F. OF L. AND LABOR BOARD CONFERENCES ARE ABANDONED; FRANK, FRIENDLY EXCHANGES OF VIEWS INDULGED IN

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Counsel for the National Labor Relations Board and the American Federation of Labor announced that they had been unable to agree on proposed amendments to the National Labor Relations Act and that no further conferences would be had.

Hearings held by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor on the amendments proposed by the American Federation of Labor were recessed to see if representatives of the Labor Board and the A. F. of L. could not agree on amendments which would remedy the bias which the Board has shown against the American Federation of Labor and in favor of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. After the meetings extending over two days, Charles Fahy, general counsel of the Labor Relations Board, and Joseph A. Padway, counsel of the A. F. of L., issued the following joint statement:

"Since noon of last Tuesday the National Labor Relations Board has had several conferences with representatives of the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of discussing the proposed amendments to the National Labor Relations Act.

"While there was a frank and friendly exchange of views, the Board and the Federation were not able to come to an agreement with reference to the proposed amendments.

"The Board and the Federation are advising Chairman Thomas of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor of the termination of the conferences."

Following the issuance of this joint statement, Mr. Padway said: "The A. F. of L. will continue to press its amendments as vigorously and forcefully as it has to date. The amendments were the result of the Houston convention. They are vitally necessary if we are to have a fair administration of the Labor Act on behalf of labor and the public. Cessation of conferences will have no effect upon our demands."

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President U. T. W. Charlotte Visitor During The Week

C. M. Fox, newly elected president of the United Textile Workers of America, was in Charlotte this week in connection with matters pertaining to the organization. President Fox is well pleased, he says, with the response which has been made to efforts of the textile organization forces since the charter was re-instated two weeks ago to the U. T. W. of A. He says there are many thousands of textile workers in the Carolinas who will now come into the organization, but who refused to affiliate as long as the International Union was an affiliate of the CIO.

Keely Grice Named Police Commissioner By Our City Council

Keely Grice was yesterday named police commissioner by Acting City Manager James W. Armstrong, at a salary of \$4,200 a year. The board refused to reappoint Chief Pittman. At the private meeting of Council, Mayor Douglas refused to break the tie in the Pittman affair. The appointment of Grice was argued upon by the private meeting of council by a vote of six. Pittman will serve until his successor is appointed. Legality of the action was questioned and it is rumored that it will be taken to Superior Court. The status of Detective Chief Littlejohn is a matter of conjecture. Mr. Grice states that no changes will be made until he has made a thorough survey of conditions.

PATRONIZE THOSE WHO ADVERTISE IN THE JOURNAL

N. C.'s potato crop will start North this week. In 1938 our growers of "Spuds" received \$3,315,000 for their crop, with this year's acreage 6 per cent above the '38 crop. We "know our onions," but we must have our 'aters.