

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

The Charlotte Labor Journal

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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

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1939

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

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Southern Mills Chose A. F. L. Text. Union In Ballot

In elections held in two Southern textile mills, the United Textile Workers of America, A. F. of L. affiliate, was chosen to represent the employes in collective bargaining.

In the election involving approximately sixteen hundred of the employes of the P. H. Hanes Knitting Company at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, held under the auspices of the Conciliation Service of the U. S. Department of Labor, the question on the ballot was: Do you want the United Textile Workers of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, as your bargaining agency? The election was participated in by one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-two employes. Of these, 1300 voted yes, 618 voted no, 44 ballots were challenged and 9 ballots were improperly marked.

The election authorized the A. F. of L. Textile Workers Union to enter into negotiations with the management in all matters pertaining to wages, hours and working conditions for over sixteen hundred employes of the company. Negotiations will be conducted by Third Vice-President Gordon L. Chastain of the United Textile Workers and George L. Googe, Southern representative of the American Federation of Labor.

In Stonewall, Mississippi, the National Labor Relations Board held an election among the employes of the Stonewall Cotton Textile Mill to choose the exclusive bargaining agency for all employes of the company.

Machinists Gain Increased Pay

The definite advantages which well organized workers enjoy because of their union membership is strikingly revealed in the wage increases and paid vacations secured by the International Association of Machinists during one recent five weeks' period—July 17 to August 24.

H. W. Brown, Acting International President of this affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, reports that during the five weeks the Association finalized 373 renewed and new agreements with employers. Of these 273 agreements, ninety-six carried wage increases and seventy-two included provisions for vacations with pay.

A few of the wage increases, selected at hazard, indicate the improvement in living standards which the machinists are gaining.

Labor Press Vital Need

The freedom of the press, guaranteed to us by the Constitution, must depend after all upon the support which the readers of the press give to it. We need scarcely more than mention the fact that the usual daily newspaper, to say nothing of the magazines, do not feel called upon to espouse the cause of organized labor. Such fair plan as is given this cause by these publications is based upon the unanswerable strength of the position of the labor movement.

But we wish to emphasize the fact that if there were no great section of the national publication known as the Labor Press, which gives its first and last loyalty to the workers of the nation, and especially to those who are members of the organizations of labor, the other sections of the nation's publicity organs would probably pay much more scant attention to the rights of labor.

Circulation is the life of any publication. Given readers, any publication is in a position of power, in proportion to its friends who show their loyalty to their own cause by their subscriptions to their own press, and by their activity in helping to enlarge its circulation.

The rights of labor will always depend, to a great extent, upon the freedom of the labor press. A labor paper which circulates freely in its own community is an index of the power of labor in that locality. It is a very definite part of the organization itself, and its function are so vital that neglect of the labor press is sure to reflect on the qualities of the labor movement itself.

IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS IN ARREARS SEND IN A CHECK

England is smaller than North Carolina; France is smaller than Texas; Italy is smaller than New Mexico. It would take three Denmark to make one Wisconsin. All of which explains why Americans see so much of Europe on one trip.

District of Columbia Transit Employes Get \$250,000 Raise

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Increases in wages and improvements in working conditions netting the men upwards of \$250,000 per year were awarded here by a board of arbitration to employes of the Capital Transit Company, members of Division 689 of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America, A. F. of L. affiliate.

The work day was shortened and wage increases, ranging from 2 cents to 6 cents an hour, were made retroactive to July 1, 1939. The back pay alone amounts to around \$80,000. The new rate established for one-man car and bus operator is 76 cents an hour.

Typos of District Of Columbia Fete 125th Anniversary

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Columbia Typographical Union will celebrate its 125th anniversary on January 7, 1940. The union was organized in 1815 as Columbia Typographical Society and its records indicate it has never missed a monthly meeting. In 1865 it celebrated its 50th birthday, and in 1915 its 100th birthday.

The committee in charge of the celebration is headed by John M. Dickman, Sr., who was president in 1889 and in 1937-38.

REFUGEE SHIP

Freighted with many tragedies, Of those whose race has been their crime, It sails again the Seven Seas— This Flying Dutchman of our time.

From lands of torture they have come; They drift from port to port in vain; More fellowship they'd gather from The mercy of a hurricane.

The gulls that gorge on freedom there, Behold those hearts that none will save; Behold those eyes that turn to stare At hospitality of the wave.

LOUIS GINSBERG, Spirit.

ALWAYS O.K.

"Where are some good places to stop on this trip?" asked the prospective automobile tourist. "At all railroad crossings," replied the clerk in the tourist bureau.

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TWO-MAN STRIKE HALTS \$40,795,000 SANTEE-COOPER DAM PROJECT IN S. C.; NATIVES MUST HAVE CHOICE

CHARLESTON, S. C., Nov. 28.—A two-man strike called as a labor union protest against the employment of several non-South Carolinians on the Santee-Cooper project delayed construction Monday on the \$40,795,000 job.

The remainder of the workers employed on the construction of the upper dam, estimated at more than 100, continued at work, but officials said that 100 or more men who would have been added today were not taken on.

It was explained that Federal regulations prevent the State Employment Service from assigning men to the job while a strike is in progress. The only other source from which men could be obtained was the South Carolina Authority Trade and Labor Council, which called the strike.

The council, which is the union's central body for supplying men to contractors on the project who elect to use union labor, charged that several non-South Carolinians were employed on the job.

Robert M. Cooper, general manager of the South Carolina Service authority, said he expected no serious delay to the development, and emphasized that the authority was not directly a party to the negotiations.

"We were advised by telegraph that they were going to call this strike," he said. "It is a fight between the contractor, the unions and the State Employment Service and not with the authority. The authority is anxious to see the work go on, but we are not involved in the dispute in any way."

W. Rhett Harley, State Commissioner of Labor, conferred here yesterday with officials on the situation, but no announcement was made afterward.

Officials explained that Wilbanks and Pierce of Greenville, Miss., and its two sub-contractors on the North Santee dam elected to obtain their labor from the State Employment Service, which maintains a central office at Moncks Corner, to fill requisitions for men on the Santee-Cooper projects.

One of these contractors, it was said, asked for several crane operators. The employment service sent the two South Carolinians it had on its list and, having no other South Carolinians, allowed the sub-contractor to use several men from outside the state who had formerly worked for him.

Other South Carolinians were registered for this type of work, it was said, but all of them were registered with the unions and not with the Employment Service. The two South Carolinians sent to the job by the employment service had joined a union while employed on the Buzzards Roost project in the upper part of the state. These were the two ordered to walk out by the Trades and Labor Council.

A State law applying to the Santee-Cooper project requires both the unions and the employment service to assign South Carolinians to the job so long as they are available. A contractor may obtain his labor from either source.

Send Your Old Toys To Firemen For Needy Children

There are hundreds of little boys and girls in Charlotte who are eagerly awaiting Christmas but whom Santa Claus will overlook unless the citizens respond to the call of the fire department for old toys.

These discarded toys will be repaired and painted at the workshop at headquarters station to bring smiles instead of tears to the faces of the less fortunate children on that great day of days.

The firemen are depending on you to show the same spirit this year that has always been shown in the past—the spirit that made possible many gifts from Santa Claus to the kids just around the corner.

All the tools of the trade have been brought out the workshop is in order. Day and night working shifts have been arranged. The firemen are ready for the hard job ahead of them. They are eager to begin their tasks and only ask the small favor of receiving the old toys to keep them busy.

All you have to do is call the fire department—Dial 5151—inform the telephone operator that you have some old toys. Give your name and address and members of the fire department will call at your home for them. You need not be bothered even with the trouble of bringing them to the station, unless you happen to want to. Observer.

Age is no handicap to retail salespeople, according to a recent survey of leading department stores. For every \$100 worth of goods sold by a person in the 20's, a clerk between 30 and 40 will sell \$102.34; from 40 to 50, \$107.38; and over 50, \$108.78.

The names of the 12,000 Jews who gave their lives for Germany in the great World War, have been carefully erased by order of Hitler from every war memorial.

HOW THEY LIKE 'EM

"Down South we like our liquor hard and our women soft." "Up North we like our liquor straight and our women curved."



In Making Your CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST

Keep JOURNAL Advertisers In Mind

SLIGHT ERROR

The twins had been brought to be christened. "What names" asked the clergyman. "Steak and Kidney," the father answered. "Bill," cried the mother, "it's Kate and Sydney."

USUALLY SO

"Officer, I left my car here a few minutes ago, and now it's gone." "Must have been stolen, sir." "No, it couldn't be that; it was insured against theft."

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BUSY

The doctor was rushing to Rastus' wife to deliver her twelfth offspring. Rastus was riding with him. The doctor saw a duck in the road and asked: "Whose duck is that?" "At ain't no duck, doctah," retorted Rastus. "Ah's a stork wid his legs wore down."

Expect To Begin Work On Housing Project In 2 Weeks

Contracts totaling \$624,253 were awarded Monday on the white slum clearance project to be erected in Charlotte by the local housing authority, according to announcement by Edwin L. Jones, chairman, and Harold J. Dillehay, executive director, of the authority.

The project, to be known as Piedmont Courts, will be erected at Seigle avenue and Tenth street and will consist of 28 buildings with 256 units.

Contracts signed yesterday in the office of Mr. Dillehay were as follows: general construction, Charles W. Angle, Inc., of Greensboro, \$544,902; plumbing, Albemarle Plumbing and Heating company of Albemarle, \$70,063; landscaping, Howard-Hickory company of Hickory, \$9,288.

The contracts now go to United States Housing authority officials in Washington for final approval and it is expected that work will begin in two weeks.

M. P. Technicians Walkout Called Off - Get Increase

HOLLYWOOD, Nov. 26.—A strike of 35,000 motion picture technicians which threatened to plunge the nation's theaters into darkness as well as close the studios, was averted yesterday as producers agreed to a 10 per cent wage increase.

A stipulation that the increase would remain effective only until next February 15, when the wage question would be reopened for consideration was accepted by officers of 24 A. F. of L. unions of studio craftsmen.

Ladies' Garment Workers Give Notice Of A. F. L. Affiliation

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, whose membership numbers 250,000, may re-join the American Federation of Labor next Spring if by that time peace between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. has not been realized.

This notice came in the form of a public statement by the board that when the national convention of the I. L. G. W. U. is held next May the question of re-affiliation with the A. F. of L. will be laid before the delegates representing the entire membership of the union.

"We had hoped and we still hope," the statement said, "that by the time our convention takes place in May, 1940, peace will be realized so that we might join in a united labor movement."

"If peace is not accomplished by that time, the question of our continued independence or affiliation with the A. F. of L., to which we belonged for thirty-seven years, will be determined by our convention."

ATLANTA HAT COMPANY GETS ADVERSE DECISION FROM THE N. L. R. B.

The National Labor Relations Board today ordered Standard Hat Company, Atlanta, Ga., to cease discouraging membership of its employes in United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers - International Union (AFL), or any other labor organization. At the same time the Board directed that a secret ballot election will be held as soon as the effects of the unfair labor practices are dissipated. Production employes will vote to determine whether or not they desire to be represented by the United Hatters.

Facing the Facts With PHILIP PEARL

There is one war in which American can no longer remain neutral. That is the labor war.

Those who blindly condemn both the American Federation of Labor and the C. I. O. for the initiation and continuation of the split in the labor movement are using the pretext of impartiality either to cloak their ignorance of the issues involved or to mask their enmity toward all labor.

Four years have gone by and the labor war is still on. By this time the facts have become so clear and the responsibility so certain that even those people who have no particular occasion to follow labor news closely should be able to judge between the disputants.

But if this mental exertion is too much, we suggest to them—and to every citizen of the United States—merely to study the case history of one union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers, and draw their own conclusions.

Before discussing the experiences of this union let us explain here and now why the members and officers of the American Federation of Labor are so eager for the judgment of their fellow citizens. First, because we are convinced we are right and the facts will support our position. Secondly, because as long as public opinion is neutral only the side at fault can profit. Thirdly, because as long as the side at fault believes it is getting away with it it will continue in its foolhardy course and the cause of labor peace will be correspondingly damaged.

IN THE WILDERNESS Now for the highly interesting story of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union and its peregrinations in the wilderness.

In 1935 this strong industrial union, one of the most liberal and enlightened in the family of labor, was seduced by John L. Lewis. It listened to the glowing promises of the betrayer. It sincerely believed in the high ideals enunciated by one who never intended to put them into practice. And so it joined the C. I. O. It gave the rebel organization the support of its 250,000 members and of its treasury. It gave to the C. I. O. councils the brains, the energy and the integrity of its president, David Dubinsky.

Mr. Dubinsky made it clear from the beginning that he was interested in organizing the unorganized but that he definitely was averse to making war on the American Federation of Labor. It was he who forced the hand of the C. I. O. leaders and impelled them to open the first peace negotiations with the A. F. of L. in November of 1937. Mr. Dubinsky served as a member of the C. I. O. peace committee.

In that capacity Mr. Dubinsky took an active part in the negotiations which finally led to the drawing up of an agreement satisfactory to both

sides. He was elated by the successful outcome of the negotiations. But his joy and elation gave way to bitter dejection when John L. Lewis only a few hours later vetoed the peace pact.

OUT OF THE WILDERNESS

That, perhaps, was the beginning of Mr. Dubinsky's disillusionment. Let it be said, let it be emphasized, that he refused to kowtow to John L. Lewis. He did not, as Sidney Hillman has done, shudder and get cold feet at the first glimpse of Lewis' frown. Instead he continued to fight for peace. He went directly to President William Green in August of 1938 and asked him whether the A. F. of L. was ready to resume peace negotiations. Mr. Green agreed without hesitation. Then Mr. Dubinsky went to see Lewis. And he got this answer from Lewis: "I won't sit down to confer with the A. F. of L. unless they agree in advance to my terms." Needless to say, Lewis' terms were impossible. Deliberately so. And the significance of his attitude was not lost upon Mr. Dubinsky. He called a mass meeting of the members of his union and he told them publicly and frankly that Lewis was to blame for the war in labor.

A few months later, when Lewis showed his hand even more openly and called a convention at which he proposed to establish the C. I. O. as a permanent organization dual to the A. F. of L., Dubinsky took the next step. He and his fellow officers of the I. L. G. W. U. announced that organization had withdrawn from affiliation with the C. I. O. Mr. Dubinsky explained the union intended to remain aloof from both the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. in the hope of being able to continue the role of peacemaker from a neutral position.

The latest step was taken only a few days ago after President Green accepted and Lewis again rejected an offer from the President of the United States to resume peace negotiations. The executive board of the I. L. G. W. U. met in Washington and it adopted a resolution declaring in part:

"We had hoped and we still hope that by the time our convention takes place in May, 1940, peace will be realized so that we might join a united labor movement. If peace is not accomplished by that time, the question of our continued independence or affiliation with the A. F. of L., to which we belonged for thirty-seven years, will be determined by our convention."

That, brothers and sisters, is tantamount to a recommendation that unless labor peace is achieved by next May the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union should return to the American Federation of Labor.

All we can say is:—"Welcome!" (Released by the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service.)

NOTICE Due to the fact that we could not issue on Thursday, proceedings of Central body and other late news is omitted. Typographical Auxiliary news and other late communications will appear next week.