

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

VOL. IX—No. 47

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1940

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

\$2.00 Per Year

SKATING AREA PROJECT POSTPONED; AWAITS SELECTION OF LOCATIONS; REGULAR OFFICE COM. REPORTS

The meeting was called to order by President Moore, with Brother W. S. Campbell saying the invocation, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Various committees reported. The Skating Areas Committee reported still being delayed waiting for a School Board decision for location of two Skating Areas. The Library opening was discussed by the Civic and Public Relations committee, and a hands off policy was decided upon, as the Charlotte Civic Council will run the Library Opening Election Campaign.

The Special committee re-opening of a regular office for organization work made a report, with the minutes of their actions being read, and receipt of an answer by Paul J. Aymon to the letter of our President stating it was his thought to take same up at the State A. F. of L. Convention. A wire was sent asking that immediate action be taken after receipt of the letter by the Committee. The Secretary stated that he had not been informed of the time or place of the meeting held by this special committee. The report of the committee was accepted by the delegates present.

A motion passed to cancel all past per capita tax of the Electrical Workers Local.

Another large local in Charlotte has voted to affiliate with the Charlotte Central Labor Union, and credentials will be presented in the very near future. Another local came in for a round of applause, this time the Printing Pressmen's local which has doubled in size. The International Representative, Brother Wilson, of the Pressmen's union, made one of the finest addresses made on the floor of the Central Body in a long time.

After much discussion pro and con, the meeting adjourned.

WM. S. GREENE, Sec.
Charlotte Central Labor Union.

SCARS OF HATRED

BY CHARLES STELZLE

(Member International Association of Machinists)

It is the fashion in some families to enter the name of a son or daughter for admission to their favorite college even before the child is a year old, so eager are the parents that their child shall receive the "right" kind of an education. And yet, they forget that even during its earliest years there may be stamped upon that child's heart and mind certain prejudices and hatreds which no college in the land can eradicate.

Where does this spirit of class hatred have its source? Most of us imagine that it is due altogether to the propaganda of misguided leaders. The fact is, such leaders usually take advantage of prejudice which already exists. They simply build upon it and intensify it. Therefore we need to go back to original sources. Ordinarily the damage is done in the home.

Need it be said that parents should not encourage—especially in their own homes—that which is unnatural in children, and which is one of the greatest blights on mankind today? In these times when hatred is so rampant, causing untold suffering to individuals and to nations, the parents of American children can render no greater service in building up the spirit of Brotherhood and Democracy throughout the world than by showing their children how hatred is responsible for the great tragedies of today, as well as being the greatest menace to the world of tomorrow.

"Whom the Russians would destroy, they first make mad."—Stalin.

PRES. WM. GREEN'S FINAL ARTICLE IN REPLY TO PEGLER'S TIRADE AGAINST THE AM. FED. OF LABOR

Westbrook Pegler's charge that the American Federation of Labor condones and protects dishonest unionism is a deliberate falsehood.

The American Federation of Labor denounces the miserable few who manage to worm their way into the labor movement for dishonest purposes and personal advancement. We call upon our affiliated unions to root out and expel any individual found guilty of a betrayal of trust. In addition we call upon the constituted public authorities of our cities, States and nation to enforce the law that applies to all our citizens without fear or favor. The American Federation of Labor

is a union of trade unions. It is composed of the following groups of organizations:

106 National and International Unions, which have 33,744 local unions.

49 State Federations of Labor (including Puerto Rico).

806 City Central bodies.

1,568 directly affiliated local trade and Federal Labor Unions.

4 Departments, which have 942 local councils.

The national and international unions, many of which antedate the American Federation of Labor itself, hold charters of affiliation with American Federation of Labor which give them full autonomy and full authority to govern their own, internal affairs. Their relation to the A. F. of L. is like that of the States to the Federal Government. Their elected officers are responsible to the members of the union, not to the A. F. of L. of close of 1940. The present members have no legal or constitutional authority to supersede the officers of a national or international union or to give them orders. The A. F. of L. has no power of compulsion over these unions. Their association with the A. F. of L. is an entirely voluntary one.

That is as it should be. The underlying principle of the A. F. of L. is voluntarism. These unions are represented in the annual conventions of the A. F. of L. on the basis of their membership. They can, if they wish, vote to change the Constitution of the A. F. of L. so as to give the central authority police powers over them. They have not done so and they probably will not do so because they are jealous of their independence. They fear dictatorship. They reason that in a democratic organization supreme power should be vested in the membership rather than a small group of officers at the top.

Under these circumstances, if control of a national or international union passes into bad hands the American Federation of Labor must rely on the public authorities and the membership of the individual union to correct the situation. True, the other organizations in the A. F. of L. can vote to expel a union from the Federation, but that would punish the members of the union rather than the real culprits. That is not a cure, but amputation.

Experience has demonstrated that cases of this kind are extremely rare and that they are quickly remedied. Crooks cannot get away with it indefinitely in unions any more than in public life. The members of organized labor feel they are capable of governing their own unions. They do not consider it wise to sacrifice self-government to dictatorship for the sake of protection from the possible danger of racketeers.

The American Federation of Labor does have power to regulate to some extent the affairs of directly affiliated Federal labor unions, State Federations of Labor and city central bodies. This power is effectively exerted whenever the necessary arises. I challenge Mr. Pegler or anyone else to point out a single case where the A. F. of L. failed to act against wrongdoing in any of these organizations over which it possesses regulatory powers.

Mr. Pegler further charges that the A. F. of L. demands public prosecution of union offenders in one breath and then in the next opposes the current anti-trust campaign against unions conducted by Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold.

The A. F. of L. does oppose this campaign. It will never agree that organized labor comes within the scope of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act which was adopted to break up corporate and financial trusts. When this law was applied against unions, the A. F. of L. secured the enactment of the Clayton Act which specifically exempted labor unions from the provisions of the Sherman Act.

The A. F. of L. and its affiliated unions condemn collusion, price-rigging and monopolistic combines between local unions and employers. We insist, however, that such manifestly illegal practices, if they exist, should be prosecuted under the properly applicable laws, not the anti-trust laws. We fear, with good reason, that the anti-trust laws can be used as an instrument to destroy organized labor and place it under the thumb of the Federal Government. No legal pretidification can ever convince us that workmen and women associated in a union for their self-protection against the entrenched power of industry and capital constitute a trust inimical to the welfare of the nation.

President Roosevelt recently declared that most newspaper columnists are wrong 80 per cent of the time. I would raise that estimate to 100 per cent with respect to Mr. Pegler's baseless attacks on the American Federation of Labor.

FREIGHT HANDLERS' LOCAL UNION MAKING PROGRESS

ATLANTA, Ga., April 8.—T. D. Grimes, A. F. of L. representative assigned to organization of freight and express handlers and terminal workers, makes report of much progress among these workers. During the past week Mr. Grimes was in Birmingham where machinery was set up for handling and adjusting grievances for members of Express Local Union No. 20294.

SOUTHEAST. OVER-THE-ROAD CON. HELD IN CHARLOTTE SAT. - SUNDAY; NEXT MEET HIGH POINT, MAY 11-12

Saturday and Sunday the Southeastern Over-the-Road Conference of the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablenmen and Helpers of America, an A. F. of L. affiliate, held a conference at the Mecklenburg Hotel, at which time the fact was brought out that there is a differential in wages, hours and general condition of bus and truck drivers in this section which is wholly unjustified.

Three committees were appointed by President Pat Ansboury, of Louisville, Ky., which will report at the next conference to be held in High Point, N. C., May 11-12.

The theme of those taking part in the discussion of freight rates was that rates in the southeastern states, states, especially in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky, are uniform, and that to drive freight trucks in these regions requires as much skill and alertness as elsewhere in the United States. Hence, declared the conference spokesmen, there is no justification of the existing differential in wages, hours, and general conditions in this territory, as compared, for instance, with wages, hours, and conditions in the territory of which Indianapolis, Ind., is the center.

Chairmen of the committees appointed are R. L. McCrorie, of Charlotte, to study the middle-section between Atlanta and Richmond, Va.; Tom Healy, of Baltimore, to study conditions between Richmond and Baltimore; J. T. Odum, of Atlanta, to study conditions in the territory of which Atlanta is the center. R. C. Weigle, of High Point, was appointed a member of the committee to aid Mr. McCrorie in the Charlotte territory.

Wage differentials and hours were under fire, and especially relate to intrastate freight and bus services. A membership drive in this territory will be taken up, and according to James F. Berry, of Atlanta, head of the public relations department of the organization, with a membership of 520,000, is one of the largest unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The membership in the Southeastern states ranges around 180,000, he said, and the brotherhood hope more than to double the number.

Before the afternoon business sessions, the delegates were guests of

local members at a luncheon at the Mecklenburg hotel. It was at this meeting that an expansion program was discussed. Delegates were in attendance from Indianapolis, Ind., Louisville, Ky., Nashville, Knoxville, Ala., Atlanta, Ga., Birmingham, Ala., Atlanta, Ga., Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Md., Philadelphia, Pa., Richmond and Norfolk, Va.

Thomas O'Brien, of Indianapolis, representing the international union, presided at several of the business sessions. Clyde Anderson, of Nashville, Tennessee, secretary, kept a record of proceedings.

The office of vice-chairman was created and Joe Williams of Indianapolis was elected to that post. The conference adjourned at 6:30 P. M.

Delegates came from Maryland to Florida and from states in the Middle West. Thomas P. O'Brien, of Indianapolis, represented the International Union.

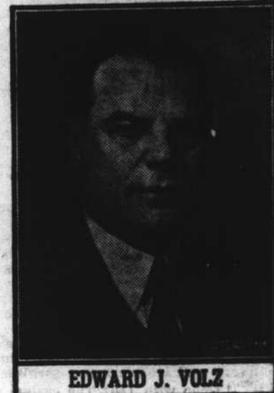
There are now in the area represented at the conference close to 180,000 members, which it is expected to increase to 400,000 before the ship of the Teamsters is now nearly 600,000.

Among those present was Frank Prohl, of Indianapolis, who is also a representative of the International body of Teamsters; Joe Williams, of Indianapolis, a director of the international union; Clyde Anderson, of Nashville, Tenn., secretary; and numerous others in official position within the union.

The delegates were guests at a banquet in the Mecklenburg Hotel dining room. The meeting was one of a series of "Over-the-Road" conferences scheduled for various cities within the eastern section. Recently a similar conference was held in Atlanta.

Organizer H. L. McCrorie, of the Teamsters and Chauffeurs in this territory, is entitled much credit for the way in which this affair was put over, and his office in the Builders Building during the convention. As The Journal has stated before, the Teamsters and Chauffeurs as far as membership is concerned, is head and shoulders above any other local, and it has been built from a small beginning by perseverance, pluck and bull-dog tenacity, coupled with a lot of lost sleep.

WHO'S WHO IN UNIONS



EDWARD J. VOLZ

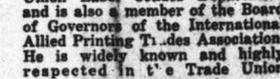
EDWARD J. VOLZ

Edward J. Volz, President of the International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America, became active in the Labor Union movement of New York City in 1904. He was President of his Local Union for 13 years when he was selected to lead the International organization in 1929, succeeding Mr. Matthew Wolf, who became the President of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Volz has assisted in building one of the strongest Labor Unions in America. Its members are among those receiving the highest annual wage and have established exceptional employment standards. Although it is not a large Union in numbers, it has had a great influence on the American Labor movement generally. Each member of the Photo-Engravers' Union, in addition to a funeral benefit of \$300, is also insured under a group policy carried with the Union Labor Life Insurance Company in the amount of \$1,000. Unemployment benefits provided over a 16-year period have averaged more than \$1,000,000 annually. The significance of the latter fact is better realized when one considers there are only 10,500 members of the Photo-Engravers' Union.

Mr. Volz has been a delegate to American Federation of Labor conventions since 1928. He has taken an active part in the campaign for Union Labels, Shop Cards, and Service Buttons. Through his able leadership, he has enrolled 95 per cent of the highly skilled artisans employed as photo-engravers and processors of kindred methods of printing plates, including relief, intaglio, planographic, and offset. He attends all conventions of the Union Label Trades Department and is also a member of the Board of Governors of the International Allied Printing Trades Association. He is widely known and highly respected in the Trade Union movement.

His address is: Mr. Edward J. Volz, President, International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America, 292 Madison Avenue, Room 1110, New York, N. Y.



The International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America adopted its Union Label in 1907. This insignia is stamped on each Union-made cut or engraving.

Any printed matter on which is displayed the Allied Printing Trades Association Union Label gives assurance that the engraving work was done by members of the International Photo-Engravers' Union, because it is affiliated with this printing trades council.

For further information regarding Union Labels, Shop Cards, and Service Buttons, write Mr. L. M. Orburn, Secretary-Treasurer, Union Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor Building, Washington, D. C.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

FIRST ALL-WOMAN STRIKE IN U.S.

THE STRIKE OF THE TAILORRESSES NEW YORK CITY-1825

ANDREW JOHNSON

1808-1875 17th PRES. OF U.S. STARTED WORK AT BENCH IN TAILOR SHOP. WON HIS FIRST POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AS A CANDIDATE ON A WORKINGMEN'S TICKET.

SURE SIGN OF SPRING... SURE SIGN OF A TRADE UNIONIST!

THE WORKINGMANS' ADVOCATE, SECOND LABOR PAPER PUBLISHED IN U.S. (1849) HAD FOR ITS SLOGAN: 'ALL CONSUMERS ARE ENTITLED TO EQUAL EDUCATION; ALL ADVERTISERS TO EQUAL PROMOTION; AND ALL MANKIND TO EQUAL PROGRESS.'

THE LABOR PRESS

The labor press is a sentinel on guard for the cause of mankind. Every possible effort should be given in order that your publication may be strengthened for still greater work which lies ahead. Your labor press renders an incalculable service to those who work. We cannot too strongly urge our fellow workers and friends to give loyal and tangible support. No greater avenue of education is available to the trade union movement than your labor press. The community which supports its Union paper reflects that co-operation through better, more effective local unions, councils and central bodies.

In Hong Kong it is compulsory that workers laid off last September because they had been on the rolls 18 months, only 13% had private jobs three months later.

After Dark!! ... by Rice

PEDESTRIANS WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO DRIVE GET KILLED

Heads Up at Sun Down

MORE THAN 9 OUT OF EVERY 10 PEDESTRIANS KILLED IN CONN. HAD NEVER BEEN LICENSED TO DRIVE - THEY SAW THE CAR BUT DIDN'T REALIZE HOW LITTLE THE DRIVER CAN SEE AFTER DARK!

REMEMBER Most Street Lighting to-day is not adequate for your safety!