

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

The Charlotte Labor Journal

Patronize our Advertisers. They Make YOUR paper possible by their co-operation.

Truthful, Honest, Impartial

Endorsed by the N. C. State Federation of Labor

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Tenth Year Of Continuous Publication

Endeavoring to Serve the Masses

VOL. X—NO. 34

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1941

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

\$2.00 Per Year

A. F. OF L. TEXTILE WORKERS GET \$250,000.00 WAGE BOOST FROM ELIZABETHTON RAYON CORP.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The United Textile Workers of America, A. F. of L. affiliate, reported that in continuing the fight for general wage increases throughout the textile industry, the Watauga Rayon Workers Union No. 2207 has just won wage increases in an agreement negotiated with the American Bemberg Corporation and the North American Rayon Corporation at Elizabethton, Tenn.

Union officials said the agreement, effective January 1, 1941, "is the first general wage increase won in the South by the United Textile Workers of America since the last meeting of the Executive Council at which a militant program to secure wage increases throughout the whole industry was formulated and commenced. The Elizabethton agreement will have far-reaching results not only in the South but throughout the nation as a whole, for it equals an annual pay increase per employee of about \$62.40."

Under the agreement all hourly paid, non-supervisory employees of both corporations will receive a three-cent-an-hour wage increase with the stipulation that neither party can bring up any question of further wage adjustment before July 1, 1941.

Officials of the companies and the union estimated that the wage increase

would amount to approximately a quarter of a million dollars a year.

John W. Pollard, first vice-president of the international union, who assisted the local union in these negotiations, stated:

"The agreement just reached today with the management of the Elizabethton Rayon Corporations is a signal victory for our organization in its campaign for general wage increases throughout the whole textile industry. We originally demanded a bonus for these 4,000 workers and we finally compromised on these wage increases. We are convinced that, in view of existing conditions, our union has won the best agreement possible at this time."

C. C. Collins, president of the Watauga Rayon Workers Union, said:

"This agreement is a compromise which I think is in the best interest of all employees of both plants, and this increase amounts to about \$62.40 per year per employee, which is considerably more than our union members could have hoped to have received had they been given a bonus rather than a pay increase. It goes without saying that I as president of the local union am very pleased that such a fair and equitable agreement has been reached between our union and the plant management."

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT SAYS EMPLOYER MUST SIGN WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH UNION WHEN AGREEMENT IS REACHED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The Supreme Court held that the Wagner act requires an employer to sign a written contract with a union when a collective bargaining agreement has been reached, even though the law does not say so in so many words.

The decision on this point, which has been in controversy ever since the law was enacted, was given in a suit by the H. J. Heinz Company of Pittsburgh, contesting the authority of the labor board to require it to sign a contract with a local of the A. F. of L. Canning and Pickle Workers' Union. The company had agreed to the union's terms after bargaining, and contended that it met the requirements of the law by posting notices to this effect on the bulletin boards.

But the opinion by Justice Stone, from which there was no dissent, asserted categorically that the company's "refusal to sign was a refusal to bargain collectively and an unfair labor practice," and that "the board's order requiring petitioner (company) at the request of the union to sign a written contract embodying agreed terms is authorized" by the section of the act which empowers the board to make orders to remedy unfair practices.

The decision noted that before enactment of the Wagner act "it had been the settled practice of the administration agencies dealing with labor relations to treat the signing of a written contract embodying wage and hour agreement, as the final step in the bargaining process."

Congress, by incorporating the collective bargaining requirement in the Wagner act, "included as a part of it the signed agreement long recognized as the final step in the bargaining process," Stone said.

"It is true," the opinion continued, "that the act, while requiring the employer to bargain collectively, does not compel him to enter into an agreement. But it does not follow that, having reached an agreement, he can refuse to sign it."

WOLL RALLIES AMERICAN LABOR TO AID BRITISH—ERNEST BEVIN, WALTER CITRINE HAIL AID COM.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—Matthew Woll, vice-president of the A. F. of L., and President of the League of Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy appealed to the presidents of more than 100 national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to join the National Committee to Aid British Labor, a division of the League, in a letter released today.

The new committee, which has the approval of Sir Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, was formed following Citrine's eloquent appeal at the recent convention of the A. F. of L. at New Orleans and his subsequent address at a meeting of the League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy, in New York.

In his letter, Mr. Woll declared that Citrine's message at New Orleans and subsequently in New York "struck a deep chord in the hearts of all of us, and aroused our determination to do everything possible to bring the day of restored freedom closer."

"We of organized labor have two

important functions to perform," Mr. Woll continued, "one, to make of this country an 'arsenal of democracy,' as the president put it; two, to rally America's workers to give every possible aid to the British workers who, together with the rest of the civilian population, are suffering greater atrocities and tragedies than any civilian population has suffered before."

In addition to Mr. Citrine's approval of the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor, Mr. Woll released a cabled message from Ernest Bevin, British Minister of Labor, which stated "The British workers thank you and their American comrades for promise of support."

Stressing the urgency of the needs of the British workers during the hard winter season, Mr. Woll said the committee "must send blankets, clothing for children and adults, medicines, mobile kitchens and ambulances to our fullest capacity."

Mr. Woll asked his fellow trade unionists to join the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor to "help sustain our brother workers and their labor movement—the champions of democracy across the sea."

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRES. ROOSEVELT'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS ON MONDAY AS GIVEN BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Here are some salient statements from President Roosevelt's message to Congress:

At no previous time has American security been as seriously threatened from without as it is today.

Every realist knows that the democratic way of life is at this moment being directly assailed in every part of the world—either by arms, or by secret spreading of poisonous propaganda.

In times like these it is immature—and incidentally untrue—for anybody to brag that an unprepared America, single-handed, and with one hand tied behind its back, can hold off the whole world.

No realistic American can expect from a dictator's peace international generosity, or return of true independence, or would disarmament, or freedom of expression, or freedom of religion—create good business.

We must always be wary of those who with sounding brass and tinkling cymbal preach the "ism" of appeasement. We must especially beware of that small group of selfish men who would clip the wings of the American eagle in order to feather their own nests.

The immediate need is a swift and driving increase in our armament production . . . I am not satisfied with the progress thus far made.

The happiness of future generations of American may well depend upon how effective and how immediate we can make our aid (to nations opposing aggressors) felt.

We must all prepare to make the sacrifices that the emergency—as serious as war itself—demands. Whatever stands in the way of speed and efficiency in defense preparations must give way to the national need.

This is no time to stop thinking about the social and economic problems which are the root cause of the social revolution which is today a supreme factor in the world.

No person should try, or be allowed, to get rich out of this program.

The world order which we seek is the co-operation of free countries, working together in a friendly, civilized society.

The decision noted that before enactment of the Wagner act "it had been the settled practice of the administration agencies dealing with labor relations to treat the signing of a written contract embodying wage and hour agreement, as the final step in the bargaining process."

Congress, by incorporating the collective bargaining requirement in the Wagner act, "included as a part of it the signed agreement long recognized as the final step in the bargaining process," Stone said.

"It is true," the opinion continued, "that the act, while requiring the employer to bargain collectively, does not compel him to enter into an agreement. But it does not follow that, having reached an agreement, he can refuse to sign it."

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES BASIC

By DR. CHARLES STELZLE

Every movement or institution which hopes to make an appeal to Americans today must be founded upon the fundamental principles of Democracy, which includes the consent of the governed, and a form of organization which is representative of the people. This at once shuts out of all form of control which deny human dignity and liberty.

The same situation regarding Democracy exists within the Church. President Roosevelt recently said that Democracy has its basis in Religion. This fact is becoming increasingly recognized. But Religion is dependent upon the permanence of Democracy. This fact has been made clear through recent events in Europe. Together they may attain a double victory. Alienated, they will suffer a common defeat.

Industry is facing one of the most perilous periods in all its history. It still has the power to put the brakes on progress if it wishes to do so, but the world has become impatient of any group which could start a movement that would free mankind from economic despair, but which refuses to do so because some of its privileges would be curtailed. The leader of either Industry or Labor who fails to recognize this fact or who is incapable of measuring up to it, will soon face personal defeat or else he will destroy the organization for whose success he has been given responsibility.

This does not mean Socialism, Fascism or Communism, particularly such as exists or is surely developing in some European countries, but it does mean a greater Democracy in Industry and in Labor trends. What form that Democracy will take is still within the power of Industry to determine. If Industry or Labor fails in this respect, it will simply be destroying itself.

Those who frame, interpret and enforce our laws will also decide our future course as well as its own. If the leaders in national affairs prove to be merely self-seeking politicians, thinking only of party supremacy or personal power, the way to freedom for the people will be blocked. And by "freedom" we mean the right to work, to live, and to grow, so long as one does not interfere with the rights of others. "We the people" are the beginning and the end of our Democratic Institutions.

Typo. Union Starts 1941 Off With A Large Attendance

The regular monthly meeting of Charlotte Typographical Union No. 338 was largely attended, and a flag ceremony was inaugurated, which from now on will be a regular part of the meeting. Committee reports were encouraging, and the label committee made a report which was very encouraging. Christmas activities were told of and other private matters some into.

Ray Nixon reported on the meeting of the Allied Printing Trades Council of three states to be held here on January 25th and 26th, at the Mecklenburg Hotel. The gathering will be addressed on Sunday by Woodruff Randolph, secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical Union, and other prominent national speakers.

The banquet will take place at 2 P. M. Sunday, and to use the words of our president, "bring your wives and sweethearts," which just can't be done—well, as, like gas and whiskey, they just will not mix. But at any rate the single men can bring their sweethearts.

The outlook for 1941 in Typographical circles is indeed bright.

"So Dora took the rich old man for better or worse?"

"No, she took him for worse, but he got better."

Low-Wage Workers Will Get Millions In Pay Increase

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Declaring that "there have been too many pay envelopes in this country containing less than \$16 for a full week's work," Colonel Philip B. Fleming, administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, predicted that "in 1941 the minimum wage will add more than \$100,000,000 to these pay envelopes. The increase will go to about a million workers. We have obtained about \$6,500,000 in restitution for about 200,000 workers."

"The 40-hour overtime penalty is hastening the employment of America," Col. Fleming said. "It is causing the training of new workers instead of exhausting of the present work force. It is causing multiple shifts on production machines which otherwise would slow down or stop when fatigue overtakes the worker."

THE MARCH OF LABOR

THE FIRST EXAMPLE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ON A NATIONAL SCALE IN THE U.S. WAS A TRADE AGREEMENT IN 1800 BETWEEN THE STOVE MOLDERS' UNION AND THE STOVE FOUNDERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE NUMBER OF WAGE-EARNING WOMEN ROSE FROM 1,700,000 IN 1870 TO 12,500,000 IN 1930.

ACCORDING TO THE LA FOLLETTE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE, UNION MAJORS WROTE THREE SEVEN OF SPICES - THE FIRST TO WATCH THE EMPLOYEES, THE SECOND TO WATCH THE FIRST, AND THE THIRD TO SHOOT THE SECOND.

GO TO 60 PERCENT OF ALL STRIKES FROM 1910 TO 1933 TOOK PLACE IN THE TRADES - TEXTILES, RUBBER, WOOD, MINING, FOUNDRIES, METAL, AND LUMBER.

EACH TIME YOU INSIST ON THIS UNION LABEL IN THE WAY YOU BUY YOU HELP ORGANIZED LABOR IN ITS FIGHT FOR YOU.

\$1,000,000 Raise In Pay Is Won By The TVA Workers

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Arthur S. Jandrey, Tennessee Valley Authority personnel director, and Samuel E. Roper, president of the Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council, A. F. of L. affiliate, announced in a joint statement that the new 1941 wage schedules for TVA workers "result in an increase in the total annual payroll, under expanded employment due to accelerated national defense program, to the amount of about \$1,000,000."

Approximately 10,000 skilled, semi-skilled and unclassified workers employed in the construction, operations, maintenance, and chemical engineering department for the authority are affected by the new wage schedule, which went into operation as of January 1, 1941.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

At an important works somewhere in the North of England a group of workmen were discussing air raids. Some were gloomy, others did not think that things were so bad, and, at any rate, efficient shelters had been provided.

One workman, proud of his optimism, said, "Wot's the use o' worrying? If a bomb 'as yer name and address on it, you'll get it, but if not—well, there you are!"

An Irishman who had been a silent listener to the discussion then interrupted: "Sure, mate, you're right, but supposed it's addressed 'To whom it may concern'?"

Labor Does Not Hinder Output Says Labor Dept.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Department of Labor again knocked into smithereens propaganda that strikes are hindering the national defense program.

Publishing figures proving conclusively that strikes have been running month by month fully fifty per cent less in number than last year, the Department emphasized that only one-third as many man-days have been lost.

In addition, it was explained that most of the strikes were in non-defense industries, or in plants having only an infinitesimal relationship to the defense program.

Moreover, Labor Department officials declared that in the past six months strikes have not only been far less than in 1939, but considerably below the war year of 1917.

HIS CHANCES

One negro was worrying about the chance of his being drafted for the army. The other consoled him. "There's two things that can happen, boy. You is either drafted or you ain't drafted. If you ain't you can forget it; if you is, you still got two chances. You may be sent to the front and you may not. If you go to the front, you still got two chances, you may get shot and you may not. If you get shot, you still have two chances, you may die and you may not! And even if you die, you still has two chances."

The LABOR JOURNAL

SERVING THE A. F. OF L. IN
PIEDMONT, NORTH CAROLINA
STRIVING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE WORKERS—
AND A FAIR DEAL FOR THE EMPLOYERS

Fly the FLAG

THE A. F. OF L. STANDS WITH AND FOR THE FLAG

PATRONIZE JOURNAL ADVERTISERS

1941 JANUARY 1941						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	
13	14	15	16	17	18	
20	21	22	23	24	25	
27	28	29	30	31		