

The Charlotte Labor Journal AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Entered as second-class matter September 11, 1931, at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

302 South College Street—Charlotte, 2, N. C.
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The Labor Journal is true to the American ideals of WAGE EARNERS: Men and women spend your wages in the city where you live, always remembering that "The Dollar That Goes the Farthest is the Dollar That Stays at Home."



The Labor Journal will not be responsible for opinions of correspondents. If you do not get your paper drop a postal to the Editor and he will see that you do.

We believe in American business and American Workers. We believe that a just share of the profits which the workers help produce should be given the worker, for without this benefit, lasting prosperity cannot be assured.

OUR POLICY ---
Work - Fight - Save
To create a better understanding between Labor, Industry and the Public.

OUR AIM ---
Work - Fight - Save
To influence Public Opinion in favor of the Organized Labor Movement.

W. M. WITTER
CLAUDE L. ALBEE

Editor and Publisher
Associate Editor

WEEKLY BIBLE QUOTATION

"Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?"
—Isaiah the Prophet.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1944

SOUND THINKING ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

A midwestern judge, the other day, solved a case of juvenile delinquency to his own satisfaction by persuading a mother to leave her war job and stay at home to keep an eye on her sixteen-year old daughter. Towns all over the United States, lately, are solving their juvenile delinquency problems to their own satisfaction by imposing curfews for teen-age children. Put the lid on the manifestations of the problem, these people seem to think, and you have solved your problem.

The psychologists have a name for this solution. It is "escapism." The animal world has a ready-made symbol for it—the ostrich. We ought to know better, by this time, than to attempt to eradicate an evil by merely shaking the fist of authority—whether it is the authority of the home, or the authority of the government.

It is encouraging in this connection to note that the Labor League for Human Rights, official relief arm of the A.F. of L., is now setting up a series of local standing committees to work with local social agencies, as well as to integrate other patriotic and relief activities of AFL members. If the trade unions and the social agencies can really get together in a constructive way to work out solutions instead of expedients, and to offer aid instead of ultimatums to our restless and uncertain younger generation, it will be worth more in immediate and in long-term results than a hundred cast-iron curfews.

IT IS A TIME FOR OUR COUNCIL TO BE CAUTIOUS

They are condemning some of the members of our city council for not breaking their necks in putting the O. K. on the far-flung POST WAR PLANNERS PROGRAM, and those doing the condemning may be wrong. It is well to look forward, to plan, to build, to become greater, but would it not be well to meditate, to pause, take stock, and think back of World War No. 1. Why all this haste to spend millions of dollars before our boys return—to use up any surplus the city, county or state may have, and not give them a look-in on whether they want it or not—whether the surplus will still be there. Would an increased tax burden upon an already heavy laden general public be forthcoming, and could these plans be carried out on accumulated finances (or finances to be secured) be provided for to take care of them without a vote of the taxpayers.

The Journal stands for Charlotte, for its advancement, for things we need, but we can not see why any group should set itself up to map plans that MUST be put into effect by either the Powers That Be, or our citizenship, without a vote of the people. It looks like Council will become merely a Rubber Stamp if all the ideas passed on by this Planning Committee, are put into effect. It is all fine, backed by a fine set of our citizenship, but does it embody ALL of our citizenship?

Let's go slow, let's win this war—take stock—see where we are at—then go forward. If the plans are feasible, it will take men, it will take brains—of course, we have plenty left at home, but not all the brains so let's make haste slowly with our new Auditorium, and other movements that involve the outlay of the taxpayers money, if it is to be done out of public funds, where the taxpayer is involved.

WRITE YOUR SONS AND BROTHERS

WRITE TO MEMBERS OF YOUR UNION IN THE ARMED FORCES. GIVE THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT ORGANIZED LABOR'S ALL-OUT SUPPORT OF THE WAR EFFORT TO COUNTERACT THE FIENDISH LIES THAT ARE BEING SPREAD AMONG THE TROOPS.

DOROTHY THOMPSON IN THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Dorothy Thompson's article addressed to Mr. Pegler was a masterpiece. Those who missed it will find it in The Charlotte News of May 6th. It is certainly worth reading. Miss Thompson talks about a gentleman, and how he should talk about a lady. The South always knew about that until Mr. Pegler started to write columns for the southern newspapers. Miss Thompson berates Mr. Pegler's vile talk against Mrs. Roosevelt as unbecoming a Christian gentleman. Here is a chapter: "Do you know, Mr. Pegler, that there is an American prison camp for German soldiers, young Nazis call a couple of dogs around the place, 'F. D.' and 'Eleanor'? How do you like that, Mr. Westbrook Pegler? But what makes them think they can get away with that, Mr. Pegler? Do you think what you have written might have helped?"

There are folks who do not like Eleanor Roosevelt. There is no argument with them. That is one of the rights we possess here in this great nation; but to badger, insult and throw barroom curses against a lady, an American lady, is vicious, stupid, cheap and certainly somewhat lowers the standard of those folks who roll in that stuff. To again quote Miss Dorothy Thompson: "You go home and say your prayers, Mr. Pegler and start the reform you are advocating on your own typewriter. Pull the mote out of thine eye, brother. That's the scriptural injunction."

PASS THE AMMUNITION

One man out of every five in the armed forces is a union member. But judging from the average discussion in any army camp, these two million trade unionists succeed in hiding the fact very well. This is the contention of Lieutenant Frederick Borden, writing a recent issue of a liberal magazine.

"Sporadic and isolated support" of labor is all Lt. Borden ever gets from his trade union brothers in arms. The soldier who holds a union card cannot be distinguished by his opinions from the soldier who has had no contact with organized labor. In many cases he is as easily misled, as hazily informed, as distant and prejudiced as the rest of the ten million men in the services. And, a large part of the blame for this state of affairs, the lieutenant charges, must be laid at the door of organized labor—not for what it has done, but for what it has failed to do.

Reluctantly, we must agree. Organized labor has been doing only a part-time job for army morale. Through the Labor League for Human Rights, members of the AFL have contributed millions upon millions of dollars to the USO, to the Red Cross, and to other organizations which minister to the needs of our boys. Labor canteens have met with extraordinary success in Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit and other cities. But morale is not exclusively a matter of physical comfort, entertainment and recreation. Morale is equally a matter of sustaining the soldier's confidence in the home front, his dignity as an individual, and his hopes for normal security in the postwar world.

Do our trade unionists in the armed forces know the facts which would make them proud to avow their union affiliations, and which would enable them to present labor's point of view in an argument? Has organized labor sufficiently emphasized the importance of its function as protector of wage and working standards and of the right of collective bargaining? Have we explained to our members in the armed forces, and to the millions who are not trade unionists, that just as they are fighting for political democracy on the battlefronts of the world, we are fighting the parallel fight for industrial democracy at home?

There has been much discussion of the anti-labor attitude prevalent in the services, and much comfort drawn from the fact that the more than two million trade unionists in uniform are presumably doing their share to eliminate anti-labor prejudice. But they cannot do their share unless they are kept informed of all developments in the world of labor. They cannot defend trade unionism unless they are continually aware of its latest problems, needs, purposes and long-range plans. And it is up to us to pass them their ammunition.

SAY SOMETHING GOOD

Pick out the folks you like the least and watch 'em for awhile. They never waste a kindly word, they never waste a smile. They criticize their fellow man at every chance they get. They never found a human just to suit their fancy yet. From them I guess you'd learn some things if they were pointed out. Some things that every one of us should know a lot about. When someone "knocks" a brother, pass around the loving cup— Say something good about him if you have to make it up. —Strickland Gillilan.

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LAW REQUIRES EMPLOYERS TO INCLUDE NAME AND SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO. OF EVERY EMPLOYEE IN RETURNS

Employers who do not have a social security account number for each employee who worked for them during January, February and March should take steps immediately to obtain such numbers, in order that this information may be included in their payroll tax returns for the first quarter of 1944. The law requires every employer to include in his quarterly tax report—the name, account number, and wages paid to each employee.

A record of the wages received by each covered worker is kept for him by the Social Security Board. This wage record will be used later as a means of determining the amount of benefits payable to him when he is old, or to his family in case he should die. The worker's name and the number that is assigned to him, by the Board, are printed at the top of his ledger sheet and stamped on all records that are kept on file for him. It is the same number that appears on his social security card.

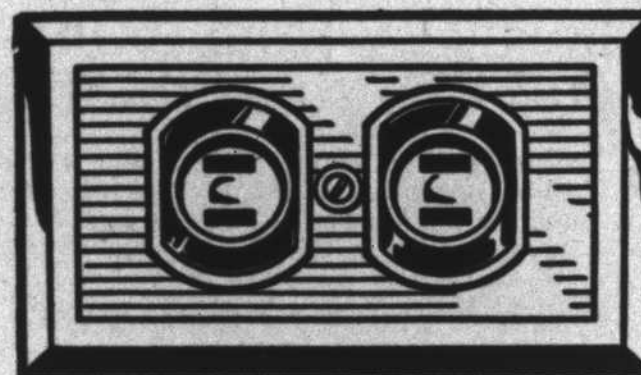
There has been no increase in social security taxes. The tax rate of one cent on the dollar remains unchanged. Each pay day the employer takes out one per cent of the worker's wages, adds to that his own one per cent payroll tax, and at the end of the quarter sends it to the Collector of Internal Revenue.

The social security tax returns are audited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Then the wage data goes to the Social Security Board where the Accountant Division credits each item of wages to the proper account.

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