

1945 -- Victory Labor Day -- 1945

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The Charlotte Labor Journal

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HAS DONE
THE JOB

Endorsed by the N. C. State
Federation of Labor

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

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

VOL. XV. No. 15

YOUR ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL IS AN INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1945

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

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THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL ADVOCATES LOYALTY TO THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR;
PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROSPERITY, AND CO-OPERATION OF ALL WORKERS ALONG EVERY LINE.

LABOR DAY, 1945

By WILLIAM GREEN

President of the American Federation of Labor

This is the first peacetime Labor Day in four years. It is a day for profound celebration and thanksgiving. For we have won a double victory—a military victory over powerful enemies and a spiritual triumph over despotism and dictatorship.

Now it is our supreme purpose to attain the fruits of victory for which we have paid so dearly.

First must come lasting world peace. Already the United Nations have shown the way by the adoption of the San Francisco Charter, which is an eloquent testimonial to human rights and human aspirations. It is up to us and to all other peace-loving nations to make that charter work and to banish war for all time.

Then we must put our economic house in order. On an international basis, that means prosperity for the people of all countries. Here at home, it means a higher standard of living and security against depressions and want.

To win the peace and the fruits of peace will not be an easy task. The difficult problems ahead of us demand intelligent planning and bold action. Already millions of Americans are caught in the economic trap of unemployment. Reconversion in some industries is proceeding with painful slowness. But we must not become discouraged. For if we proceed with united determination to win the peace, economic hardships will be of short duration and the great promise of the future can be achieved.

One of the nation's great assets during the war was its strong labor movement. The trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor made tremendous contributions to victory. This fact is best illustrated by their cooperation with the government to speed production of the atomic bomb. By use of this devastating weapon we were able to conquer Japan without a bloody invasion. And the War Department has officially testified to the vital role played by American Federation of Labor unions in producing these bombs in record time.

The seven million members of the American Federation of Labor have come out of the war fortified in strength and spirit. They are now better prepared than ever before to carry on the huge tasks of postwar reconstruction. Through the American Federation of Labor, they are exerting a powerful influence over the nation's affairs and guiding its policies along progressive lines.

The American Federation of Labor calls upon the nation to establish maximum peacetime production, which will provide full employment and create steadily higher standards of living.

To provide a ready market for increased production, the American Federation of Labor will bend all its efforts to obtain from management wage rates high enough to create an abundant pool of domestic purchasing power.

In order to share equitably the benefits of scientific invention and new methods of production, the American Federation of Labor will renew its drive for the shorter work week, thus spreading the available jobs and giving all workers the opportunity for healthy recreation and education which modern civilization offers.

On this Labor Day let us dedicate ourselves to the great goals of peace. Let us never forget the supreme sacrifices made by the brave American boys who lost their lives on the battlefields of Africa, Europe and the Pacific and the unsung soldiers of production who were killed at their factory machines. Our debt to them can never be repaid. But we can and must resolve that the dread holocaust of war shall never desolate mankind again, that our hard-won freedoms shall never be surrendered and that the sacrifices of our war heroes shall be redeemed by the establishment of a way of life which will bring happiness and security to humanity in the future.

BIRMINGHAM PRINTERS WIN EVERY DEMAND

Birmingham, Ala.—With complete victory won, printers employed by the three Birmingham daily newspapers, the Birmingham News, the Post and the Age-Herald, have returned to work after a 5 weeks' strike.

In statements published in their papers, James C. Chappell, president and general manager of The News and The Age-Herald, and James Mills, publisher of the Scripps-Howard Post, said that they had granted every demand of Local 104 of the International Typographical Union as the only way of restoring publication.

Only two demands had been in dispute. One was insisted upon by the union's international officers after ne-

gotiations had been settled locally. This was that a clause be incorporated into the contract adopting the union's 1945 by-laws, one of the provisions of which is automatically incorporated into the contract. The publishers argued that this wrote "a blank check for the union."

The other demand was for medical examinations and certain conditions relating to the admission of apprentices.

The publishers also granted hourly pay increases of 10 cents to the day shift and 11 cents to the night shift, paid vacations for two weeks instead of one, time and a half for working on days off, regardless of whether 40 hours had been worked in a week, and double time for Sundays except when these are part of the regular shift and pay for four holidays.

Occupation in Europe will take 400 thousand soldiers.

F. H. SHUFORD ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATORS

Forrest H. Shuford, Commissioner of Labor, today announced the appointment of the following men to serve as arbitrators under the Arbitration Act enacted by the last legislature and administered by the North Carolina Department of Labor: Francis O. Clarkson, Charlotte; John W.

Darden, Plymouth; George D. Heaton, Jr., Charlotte; R. J. M. Hobbs, Chapel Hill; Raymond Jenkins, Salisbury; Albert S. Keister, Greensboro; W. H. F. Millar, Waynesville; J. J. Spengler; Durham; Capus Waynick, Raleigh; Harry D. Wolfe, Chapel Hill.

"Our State, during the period of the war, has been singularly free of major labor disturbances. During 1942, 1943 and 1944 one hundred and twenty-eight strikes occurred in North Carolina with a resulting 195,679 man-days of idleness, six one-hundredths of one per cent of the available working time," Shuford stated. "This is a remarkable record," he added, "and is attributable to the fine relationship that has existed between management and labor in this State."

LABOR DAY MESSAGE

OF GEORGE L. GOOGE
Southern Representative, American
Federation of Labor, Labor Day 1945

Labor Day 1944 to Labor Day 1945 goes down in history as having been the most crucial year of the organized labor movement South of the Mason Dixon line. Greater progress has been made by the American Federation of Labor Unions during this period than in any one year of our existence. Wages have reached a new all time high for this Southland, noted in years gone by as a low wage section. Hundreds of thousands of workers have enjoyed vacations with pay, obtained through union contracts from employers who never before had paid vacations, paid holidays have been inaugurated for tens of thousands who never before received pay when enjoying legal holidays.

At the same time our movement has faced greater obstacles than ever before. Greater efforts have been made through State Legislatures to hamstring and hogtie labor unions in the South during this period than all efforts of past years combined. We are happy to report that in the face of this concerted opposition labor did its best job before the Southern State Legislative bodies ever in our history. We have been successful in overwhelmingly defeating every piece of anti-labor legislation that was introduced in all of the legislatures in the South in 1945 and in many states anti-labor bills that were recommended for passage by legislative committees were almost unanimously defeated upon the floor. Dual organizations and independent or company unions have made desperate efforts to raid our unions. The dual movements have made but little efforts to organize the unorganized but have concentrated their nefarious activities in attempts to raid American Federation of Labor unions without success.

Vigilante committees have been formed in some communities in the South, however, only in some smaller industrial centers. Our organizers have been beat up, their automobiles damaged, as well as false paid advertisements in local county newspapers by vigilantes subsidized by tory industrialists attempting to discredit our movement and incite hostility against industrial democracy. Despite all of these difficulties, however, the American Federation of Labor unions have grown in numbers, membership and influence; numerous new local unions have been organized, hundreds of new union contracts obtained and thousands of old contracts renewed on a sound and permanent basis with increased gains to the wage earners.

President William Green's Labor Day address at Tampa in 1943 and again at Jacksonville in 1944, and broadcast to the nation have been largely responsible for off-setting the hysterical anti-labor propaganda pouring from the press and subsidized radio commentators, and these addresses were very instrumental in turning the tide of anti-labor legislation in the Southern state legislatures. Vicious anti-labor battles were waged during the year in Florida and Arkansas where constitutional amendments were voted upon in general elections outlawing all forms of union security clauses in contracts between employers and unions.

In Arkansas the anti-union security amendment in this agricultural state was adopted by the slim margin of seven thousand majority votes. Under the Arkansas constitution before the anti-security amendment adopted to the constitution could have the force of the law it requires the passage of an enabling Act by both houses of the Arkansas Legislature. The 1945 general assembly of Arkansas, realizing the injustice to labor of this amendment, refused to pass an enabling Act.

The Anti-union security amendment to the constitution of Florida was adopted by a twenty-two thousand vote majority, but its enforcement has been restrained in the courts until the U. S. Supreme Court can pass upon our suit contesting its validity. The pendulum of public sentiment in Florida became so aroused following the adoption of this fascist constitutional amendment that the foes of labor were unable to get a single member of the Florida House of Representatives or State Senate to endorse a single anti-labor bill in the 1945 regular session of the Florida legislature.

The General Counsel for the American Federation of Labor has been devoting most of his time to combating these obnoxious constitutional amendments and the anti-labor laws passed in previous sessions of the Florida, Alabama and Texas legislatures, and has won a signal victory for organized labor before the Supreme Court wherein this court invalidated the Florida Act placing labor unions in straight jackets, the Supreme Court ruling for all time that the state law-making bodies could not pass valid legislation curtailing the rights of collective bargaining established by the Congress of the United States.

We owe much to our State Federations of Labor, City Central Bodies, Building Trades, Metal Trades, Printing Trades Councils and Local Unions for their closely coordinated opposition to those enemies of progress who would destroy labor's potency and general effectiveness in collective bargaining. Our unions and membership spent freely of their time and resources in this historic struggle against our native fascists. x x x

GOVERNOR CHERRY SENDS GREETINGS TO LABOR



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
RALEIGH

R. GREGG CHERRY
GOVERNOR

August 22, 1945

Mr. W. M. Witter
Editor & Publisher
Charlotte Labor Journal
Charlotte 2, N. C.

Dear Mr. Witter:

Please permit me — on the eve of the annual observance of Labor Day — to extend, through the medium of the Charlotte Labor Journal, greetings to labor in North Carolina.

We are all happy that it can be said of our Old North State that it has been blessed with a minimum of labor troubles. This is also a good time to take a look back at the magnificent job that labor turned in here in North Carolina in connection with the general war program. Hostilities are now over, and a great portion of the credit for final victory is to be laid at the door of labor — in this state and throughout the United States.

Please let me also take this opportunity to commend you for your faithful efforts in behalf of the cause of labor in North Carolina during the half a century that you have been affiliated with organized labor and more especially during those years that you have so ably edited the Journal.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

R. Gregg Cherry
R. Gregg Cherry

WHAT NEXT?

By RUTH TAYLOR

Amidst the exuberant rejoicings at the end of the Second World War, amid the heartfelt prayers of gratitude over the Victory, there is one fact which is pre-eminent. The atomic bomb that prefaced the final outcome marked the end not only of a war but of an era.

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new;
And God fulfills Himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

So wrote Tennyson at the turn of the century. The devastation wrought by the atomic bomb, the revelation of the terror it can make of war, demands an equally great invention for the preservation of peace, a thoughtful, purposeful meeting of a new way of life.

V-J Day marks not merely the end of a period of destruction, but the beginning of a period of construction. Like old buildings blasted away by bombings, so have old ideas, old prejudices, old misconceptions been blasted away under the spiritual bombings of war. Now we can begin to clear away the rubble and build not merely a new community but a new world.

War has blasted a pathway uniting the peoples of the earth. We must level this pathway into a road upon which human beings of all creeds, all races, all tongues, even though they start at different places and move at different rates of progress, may march along, in the full stature and dignity of free men—to a goal of peace and security.

It is time, not space that has shriveled. We have learned that our world is but a succession of small communities, all linked together, all interdependent, like parts of a great chain. We have learned that one cannot have peace and prosperity unless all have it. Peace can never be merely the absence of war. Victory does not guarantee lasting peace and prosperity. It only wins for us the right to work for these ends. There can be no peace unless justice is also present.

It will take time to build the new world of UNITED nations, to forge a unity so strong in understanding that occasions for war cannot break it. It will take many steadfast men to build this world—men who will give to peace the same unselfed devotion they gave to the successful prosecution of war. It will need men who will "use the goods of God's earth for the good of God's people."

The pyramids of Egypt stretch for sixty miles along the west bank of the Nile river.

Memory is the thing you forget

with, especially unpleasant things.

When a missed opportunity is flying away, it always appears bigger than when it came.

"Victory Loan" Drive To Start On Oct. 29th

WASHINGTON — Starting date of the Eighth and last War Loan Drive is October 29.

This will be a "Victory Loan" of \$11,000,000,000, of which the Government wants four billions to come from individuals, half in "E" bonds.

Secretary of the Treasury Vinson in announcing the loan last night, said:

"The cost of contract settlements, bringing our forces home, their mustering-out pay, hospitalization, care and rehabilitation will be great and will require large sums for which we must plan now."

MAY MAINTAIN SCHOOLS

Chicago, Aug. 25.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL) recommended today that nursery schools, which the council said "had proved so effective" during the war, be further extended as a permanent part of the American school system.

It's easy to make allowance, but for some it's easier for them to spend it. Hope, Kans.; Charity, Mo.; Reform, Ala.; Sleepy Eye, Minn.

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