

Editorial

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL
(and Dixie Farm News)

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A LOCAL DILEMMA

According to articles appearing in local newspapers during the past few days both contractors and building tradesmen are faced with the problem of insufficient experienced manpower to carry on the work of constructing buildings and building homes for returning servicemen and others.

In these articles the suggestion is put forth that the building trades change their long-established laws in order that inexperienced help may be put to work in large numbers to meet the demands of contractors. The matter was taken up with Charlotte Central Labor Union officials this week and came to the floor of the Central Body for consideration at its meeting Thursday night. The Central Labor Union ruled that it was not a matter for the Central body as a whole to pass judgment upon, as apprenticeship relations of many affiliated unions with local concerns are varied, calling for different terms of employment to meet the needs of the different crafts and employers.

The quota of apprentices allowed to the number of journeymen employed on jobs may or may not be the same in all unions and should the laws of many local unions be changed to meet the requests for changes the matter perhaps would have to go to some of the international unions for action before local requests could be granted. This would necessarily require considerable time. Many laws of national and international unions are made in conventions each year and therefore cannot be changed until the convention is held the following year.

The sincerity of the proposal and the source from which it came was well received by the delegates as a whole, but in order that more time and thought may be given to solving the problem the matter was left in the hands of the building trades and the contractors, where it rightfully belongs, for further consideration. It no doubt will have to be settled through a period of negotiations and The Labor Journal predicts that it will be solved satisfactorily to everybody concerned. It should have been taken up with the building trades in the first place and the necessary machinery put into operation to negotiate the terms of the proposal and then the net result could have been given to the public through the local press. In the meantime it looks as though we will have to wait until the acceptable terms have been promulgated and accepted by both contractors and building tradesmen in order that new homes and buildings will become available.

It does seem reasonable to expect, however, that if returning veterans are to be employed through some system of apprenticeship training that they may be put to work on building homes for themselves and their families before any other building is undertaken. They shouldn't be required to live in "fox-holes" in this country after having served so long and valiantly in countries abroad.

INDICTS OPERATORS

John L. Lewis dramatically charged that the bituminous coal industry in the last 14 years, through "mismanagement, cupidity, stupidity and wanton neglect," killed 28,000 miners and "violently mangled, crushed and shattered the bodies" of another 1,400,000.

Facing mine operator representatives at an open session of the national coal wage conference, the shaggy president of the United Mine Workers Union also accused the industry of extorting \$60,000,000 a year from the miners for "pseudo, hypothetical and substandard medical service, hospitalization and insurance of an actual value of less than one-third" the amount collected.

The high point of the conference came when Mr. Lewis, summarizing the evidence supporting the union's demand for a "health and welfare fund" leveled this indictment at the coal operators:

"We accuse, by the record, that the management and stockholders of the bituminous coal industry in a period of 14 years have, through mismanagement, cupidity, stupidity and wanton neglect made dead 28,000 mine workers.

"We accuse, by the record, that in the same period the same management and stockholders have, for the same reasons, violently mangled, crushed and shattered the bodies of 1,400,000 mine workers.

"We accuse by the record that the industry does not bury its dead or bind up the shattered bones and the mangled flesh of its victims in any adequate, humane or modern sense.

"We accuse by the record that the management and stockholders of the bituminous coal industry indulge in systematic and widespread financial exploitation of the families of the dead and practice commercial extortion upon the yet living victims of its industrial violence.

"We accuse by the record that the industry extorts annually from the pay envelope of the mine workers 60,000,000 of dollars for pseudo, hypothetical and substandard medical service, hospitalization and insurance of an actual value of less than one-third of the aforesaid \$60,000,000.

"We challenge on the record, refutation point by point.

"We demand abatement of this slaughter.

"We demand cessation of the accompanying extortion."

S. J. GOMPERS DIES

Samuel Gompers, 77, whose father founded the American Federation of Labor, died at his home here after a long illness.

Mr. Gompers retired in October, 1941, after 54 years of service with the federal government. From 1918 until his retirement he was chief clerk of the Labor Department.

High tributes were paid to Mr. Gompers by Secretary of Labor Schwelmbach, former Secretary Perkins and AFL leaders.

Believe It or Not! by Smokey



DOCTOR JOHN F. MAHONEY
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
U.S. MARINE HOSPITAL, STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.
WAS THE FIRST TO PROVE PENICILLIN
A POTENT DRUG AGAINST GONORRHEA
AND BARELY SYPHILIS.



CHEMICAL - WAS ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERED
BY PROF. ALEXANDER FLEMING
BEFORE AFTER
PENICILLIN'S GERM-KILLING POWERS



USED SUCCESSFULLY UPON ADVICE OF PHYSICIANS
PENICILLIN - THE MIGHTY SOLDIER - WILL SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES!
IT FIGHTS MONSTERS AGAINST... THE HORROR OF DISEASES - INCLUDING GONORRHEA, BUBONIC PLAGUE AND SYPHILIS.

Drawn by Robert Ripley for The American Social Hygiene Association

WORKING IT OUT

By Frances Perkins

A news item has recently appeared in many papers to the effect that "refugees" in Europe are selling goods and supplies sent to them under various forms of relief projects. I should have been badly bewildered by this information if it had not been that I had met overseas some of the soldiers, British and American, who had been assigned to distributing supplies in the emergency.

A young British officer about 35 years old, a school master by profession in his private life, rode up with me in the train from Dover to London one night. He was on his way home for discharge as he hoped. He was intelligent, humorous, and hopeful. He had been on guard duty in Italy and on guard duty in Greece. His very last assignment before he left to come home for discharge had been to take supplies up into the mountain towns of Greece. Supplies from U. N. N. R. A., from the American Friends Association, from the British Christian Fellowship Associations.

He said to me: "We had the canned soup, the canned eggs, the canned milk, the canned meat, the canned fruit juice, and we had the trucks but winter was closing down on us quick. We took whatever we had, those were our orders, up into the villages and we distributed it. God knows the people needed everything they could get. Sometimes, however, we know that they took the canned milk we gave them or the canned tomato juice, which they really didn't understand, and they took it down into the villages in the valley and traded it for shoes, for blankets, for cooking utensils, for roofing material and for fuel." He added, he a British soldier

RUTH TAYLOR SAYS:

YOU

It's up to you! Whatever the question be, whatever the crucial problem confronting the country today, the solution is up to you. For in either a republic or a democracy the power is vested in the individual—and that means you! When we speak of national unity, we mean national oneness—a cohesion of all elements into one. You are that one!

Through your vote you have the power to effect whatever changes you wish. Your vote is as potent as that of any man in the country. But if you neglect to vote—don't complain of the government that is elected.

Yours is the responsibility. You can't expect co-operation if you are not co-operative. You can't expect fair play unless you are willing to play fair. You can't prate about discrimination if you discrim-

inate against others. You can't whine about taxes and then complain when you don't get the service you expect from the government of your choice.

You have to be kind. You have to be tolerant. You have to work. It all begins and ends with you.

Neither industrial disputes nor international problems can be settled from the top. You have to begin with yourself. To achieve co-operative action, you yourself must be willing to co-operate in the problems of every day living.

But you must stand firm on the ideals in which you believe. You must be articulate for the right, and—if you are—you can be a power for good in yourself.

What the future holds depends upon you—upon me—upon each and everyone of us as individuals. That is what

a republic means. That is what democracy stands for. It is a personal responsibility! It is up to you—and me—and all of us who have pride in our American citizenship—to do our individual best.

Uncle Sam Says



Down in Broad Street and Nassau Street, New York, I talked with big finance men. They could buy big, long term bonds but they buy Savings Bonds like Joe, the miner, and Hal, the bus driver. They look ahead and see their meeting doctor's bills, getting a new roof on the garage and getting that wing chair mother has always wanted. Yes, Wall Street likes bonds. U. S. Treasury Department

Smokey Says:



THE FELLOW WHO GREW THOSE LOGS KNOWS HOW TO KEEP FIRE OUT OF THE WOODS AND KEEP MONEY IN THE BANK!
A woodland protected from fire is like money in the bank. The growing trees are capital—each year's growth the interest. Dividends can be periodically declared in the form of timber harvests.

QUIT YOUR SKIDDING



WE'RE STILL DOING OK. ON BRIDGES AND SHADED SECTIONS WHERE THE ICE HANGS ON
Remember... you may find icy surfaces on bridges or shaded sections of an otherwise clear road surface.

"TAKE IT EASY"



NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

THE MARCH OF LABOR

I AM A TRUE LABOURER; I EARN THAT I EAT, GET THAT I WEAR; OWE NO MAN HATE, ENVY NO MAN'S HAPPINESS, GLAD OF OTHER MEN'S GOOD...
AS YOU LIKE IT
ACT III - SC. 2

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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\$1.00

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