

People Of Israel Had First Labor Union

A Labor Day sermon, delivered in Asheville in 1919, has been uncovered by a local friend of Labor who has handed it to The Charlotte Labor Journal for review and The Journal editor passes it on to its readers as being what he thinks one of the finest sermons on Labor ever delivered by any churchman in North Carolina. Rev. Clark was at that time pastor of the Episcopal church of Asheville. The sermon follows:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." St. John 14:6.

The great need is for all of us to draw nearer to the Father than we have ever been before. The cry today that is being heard above the noise emanating from the chaotic condition of the world is the cry demanding the application to life of the doctrine of the Brotherhood of Man. But the world's history has shown that such an application is impossible without a deeper sense than we now have of the Fatherhood of God. Men must come into the realization that God is the Father of us all, for only in the consciousness of a common Divine Fatherhood can be born the sense of Brotherhood that is so essential for the peace of the world. We must come into the consciousness of this Divine Fatherhood through, and only through the way Jesus Christ has revealed.

Tomorrow is a holiday. It is a day set apart in our national calendar and dedicated to labor. It is a day that stands for the recognition on the part of the people of the United States of the importance of labor as the very woof in the fabric that is being woven by the Master Weaver as He works out the design of our country's purpose.

It seems that the Omnipotent Power, which controls the destiny of the world, is sitting at the loom of our life opening and closing the warp of opportunities; and as they open and close, the shuttle bearing the woof of labor is shot restlessly and turbulently through and through, weaving the fabric that contains the design for our great country to fulfill.

Who can gainsay that the design which our country is called to fulfill in the assemblage of the nations of the earth is nothing less than to manifest in the political, social and economic life of its citizens the liberty and love, the truth and justice, the equal rights and

abundant life which belong to the Brotherhood of Man? It is true that the times are chaotic, noisy, and full of contention; it is true that it seems that there are efforts to disrupt order and harmony, and overthrow peace, but it is no more true than the fact of uproar and confusion which exists in the loom room of any weaving plant in the world. But even to the casual observer of any working loom there comes, amidst the deafening and harassing noise, a conviction that a plan is being worked out in the fabric, which is being woven before his eyes. Even so to one who looks upon the working loom of life today there comes the conviction that a plan is in its formation, and that the strife will not cease until the fabric is complete and the design meets the approval of the Master Weaver of the destiny of mankind.

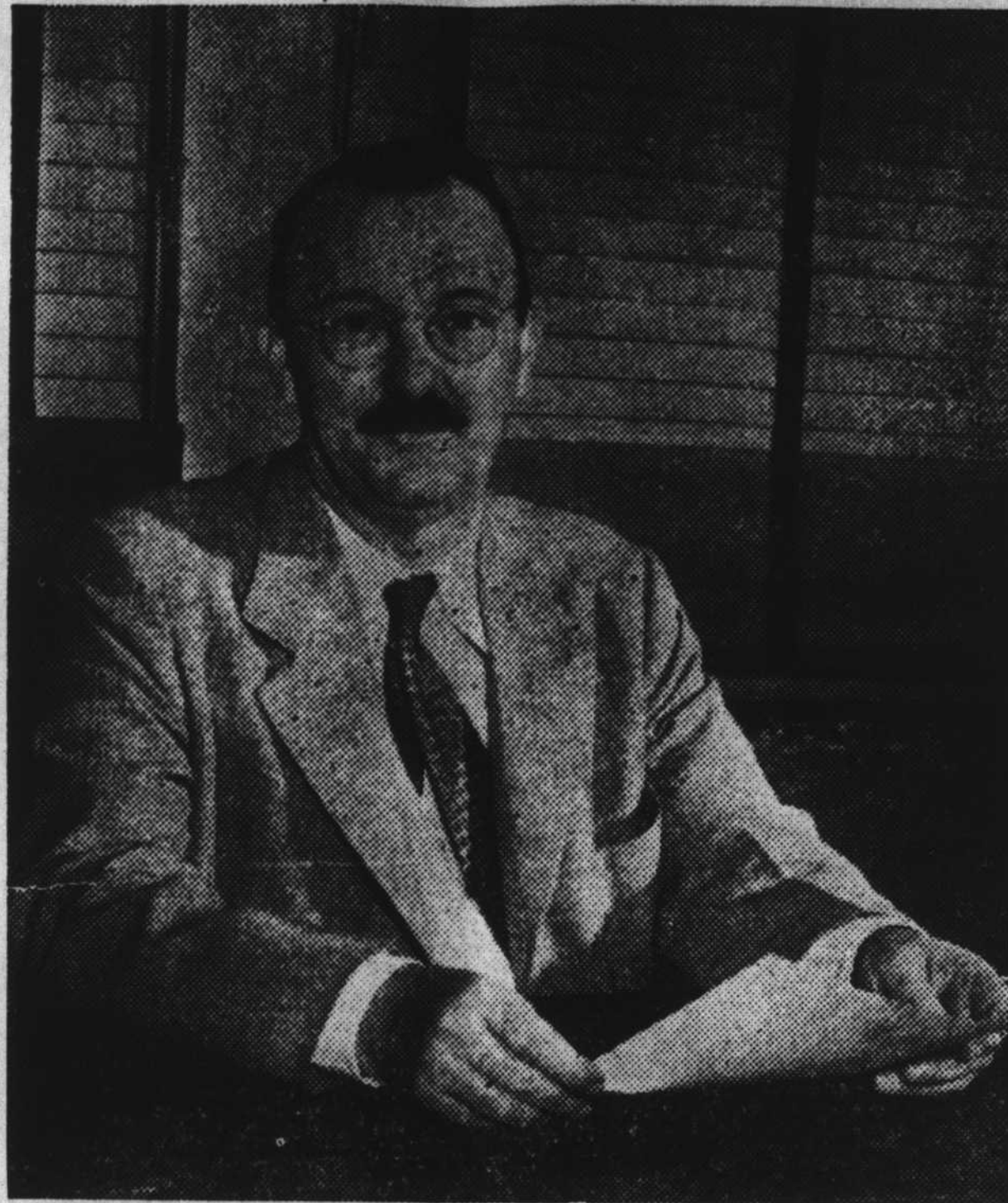
We are faced with a great problem, as great and complex as any generation in the world has seen. The conclusion is almost unanimous that it is the labor problem. Call it a labor problem if you will, call it a trades union problem if you will. By whatever name you may call it, you cannot cover the outstanding fact that it is a Christian problem. For we can see in the ideals of its demands an effort of the Christian spirit to work out its purpose—which purpose is to enrich life and to help every man live it more abundantly.

It is a problem calling for the freedom of man from bondage of the sin of selfishness and from the fetters of a gross materialism. This problem demands a solution. Only its solution can the many other trying problems of life be absolutely and permanently dissolved.

This problem cannot be solved by force. There is only one authority who can give the formula for its solution and that authority is the One who proclaims: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord." The assertions and revelations of that authority are contained in the book which we revere as the Word of God.

I call your attention to something very interesting in this book (holding up the Bible). It is the record which shows that the first movement in the world's history pre-figuring the ultimate deliverance of man from the bondage of sin and oppression of materialism was a labor movement. It was the movement of a great labor union organized as the Brotherhood of the Select of God. The Israelites were working for the capitalistic

"Uncle" Jim Barrett



JAMES F. BARRETT
SOUTHERN PUBLICITY DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR, Mr. Barrett has been busy for several weeks getting things in readiness for the Southern Labor Conference meeting in Asheville May 11-12. "Uncle Jim," as he is familiarly known, has spent a life-time in promoting the interests of the workers and is a former editor of a Charlotte labor paper. His home is in Asheville and the Conference meeting, THE JOURNAL predicts, will be a huge success because Jim has made the plans.

Pharaoh. He imposed upon them unbearable conditions of hard work, long hours and poor pay. They first appealed to him for better terms, but were answered by the imposition of increased hardships. Their first strike resulted in the refusal of Pharaoh to longer furnish them with the straw for the making of brick. The more they protested the harder their life was made for them. They then adopted a method which is so greatly needed today on the part of those who are struggling for a better chance to live. They entered into a concerted appeal through prayer to God. He heard them, and raised up for them a labor leader who was no less a personage than Moses himself. Moses championed their cause. He became the first "walking delegate" known to the world. The examples of Moses should be followed by every leader of labor today. Moses had the courage to stand before the capitalist and declare to him that unless he practiced the teachings of Jehovah in his relations to his employes he would lose his kingdom and his soul. Many a modern labor leader has such courage as he challenges the capitalist to the practice of a more brotherly consideration of those in his employ. But Moses had even a greater courage. He stood also before his own labor union and told them in very positive terms of the need on their part of a more real recognition of God as the controlling factor in their lives; and that they must render Jehovah worship and service, surrendering their wills to His or lose both the fulfillment of their hopes and their souls.

If a labor leader would stand before his union and talk to them like that, would his followers murmur as the children of Israel did? But Moses lined them up, almost to a man, to the expression of a willingness to follow the guidance of God. Then Moses made more appeals to Pharaoh, who in turn made agreements with his employes. But time and time again Pharaoh failed to fulfill these agreements until the situation became unbearable. Then it was that there took place the first "walkout" known in the history of the laboring man. Moses led that "walkout" under the guidance of God. It ended in deliverance of the laborer and disaster to the cruel capitalist and his constituency, and became the prototype of the ultimate deliverance of man through the "way, the truth and the life" of Jesus Christ.

There is another interesting record in this connection. After Moses reached the border of the wilderness he organized these laborers

into a new commonwealth. He was then called by Jehovah to the top of Mount Sinai. There he received from God, direct, the laws of the new constitution. In the midst of these laws stands an act of labor legislation. It is the fourth commandment. As this commandment is recorded in the fifth chapter of Deuteronomy we see that the people who are thought of in it are the laboring people. God urges the keeping of one day in seven as a day of rest, telling His people to observe this law so that those who work for them "may rest as well as thou." This commandment shows God's concern for the wage-earner, and is the first act, known to man, to regulate the hours of labor by legislation. Remember that this act of legislation came from God Himself.

Is God with the labor movement today? We answer that God is with every movement which chooses a leadership that is willing to follow His divine guidance in the quest for truth and justice, righteousness and peace, liberty and the abundant life, along the "way, the truth and the life" revealed in the teachings of the Savior of the world.



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Use Fall Fruits

By Frances Lee Barton

USE Fall fruits liberally — not merely because they taste good but because you need their minerals and vitamins now that the market is no longer loaded with summertime's fruits and green vegetables.

Two of these Fall fruits — cranberries and oranges — combine with easy-to-prepare packaged pudding to provide a simple dessert; see recipe below. Incidentally, this parfait is as "pretty as a picture," with its appetite appealing color contrast and its intriguing diagonal design.

Cranberry Pudding Parfait
Prepare powdered vanilla pudding as directed on package. Cool. To make diagonal design, hold parfait glass at 45° angle and partially fill with pudding. Still holding glass at same angle, add ½ inch layer of Cranberry Orange Sauce; then fill with pudding. Chill. Makes 4 servings.

Cranberry Orange Sauce. Cut 1 small whole orange into wedges; remove seeds. Put through food chopper with 1 cup cranberries. Add ½ cup sugar and dash of salt and mix well. Chill several hours. Makes ¾ cup sauce.

AFL IS PRAISED BY ELLIS FOR HELP IN KEEPING ORDER

Washington, D. C.—Warm tribute to the American Federation of Labor for its "worthwhile contribution toward keeping our economic situation in order" was voiced on the House floor by Rep. Hubert Ellis of West Virginia.

Pointing out that there is an inclination to overlook commendable service on the part of others during these trying times, Rep. Ellis lauded AFL unions for their conduct after V-J Day.

"It is indeed gratifying to note that this great labor organization has stayed on the job and bargained within the price ceilings while others struck and . . . caused not a bulge but a definite and serious break in the price-inflation lines," Rep. Ellis declared.

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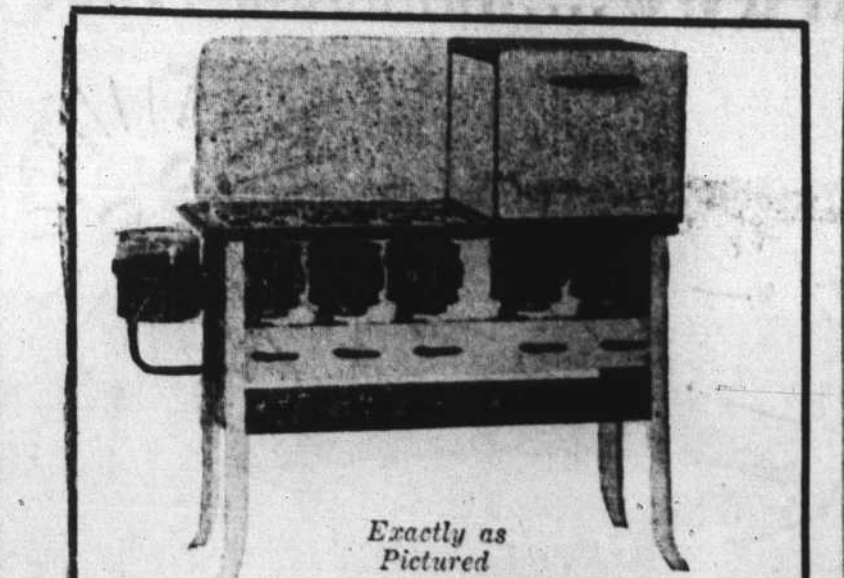


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