

EDITORIAL

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL (and Dixie Farm News)

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NORTH CAROLINA UNIONISTS TREK TO ASHEVILLE

North Carolina unions are sending the largest delegations ever to attend any Labor gathering in Tarheelia at the Asheville meeting Saturday and Sunday, to take part in the deliberations in which plans will be formulated preliminary to opening the greatest organizing campaign the South has ever experienced. This meeting will afford Southern Unionists the opportunity to present their problems before a national gathering, the A.F.L. officials and officials of national and international unions who are to participate in the two-day session. Just such an event has been longed for by all Southerners.

As stated in an editorial last week, The Charlotte Labor Journal predicts that the meeting will be nothing other than a huge success. A.F.L. unions are being spurred on in their efforts to organize the unorganized workers of

Dixieland before "foreign" elements take root and grow in this fertile field of organization. Not only because of this fact, but also because of the fact that more and more industries are moving South where they have been told that labor is cheap. Southern workers are just as efficient and industrious as are any in the world and they love good working conditions and fair pay for their work as does any other section of the country.

Truly, the Labor world in the South is awakening to its possibilities. This great gathering in the Carolina mountain metropolis is both father and mother, giving birth to a New Child of American Labor which ere long will lift its husky voice in a cry that will be heard throughout America.

To all the delegates attending, and to the officials of the national and international unions, and to the officers of the American Federation of Labor, The Journal extends its blessings.

HOLLYWOOD MUSICIANS WIN NICE WAGE INCREASE

New York City.—An increase of 44 per cent in the number of musicians regularly employed in Hollywood studios and a 33 per cent raise in their annual wages are provided in a contract approved by the eight motion picture producers and the American Federation of Musicians (A.F.M.), headed by James C. Petrillo.

The percentage increase in annual wages was believed to be the highest negotiated by a major industry and a union since

V-J Day, both groups explaining that it was related directly to government estimates that the cost of living had risen one-third since January 1, 1941, the date the regularly employed musicians last received a pay increase.

Under the contract, which runs until Labor Day, 1948, the eight producers agree to engage on a yearly basis a total of 339 musicians in the eight studios, compared with their present quota of 235. The annual wage was fixed at \$6,916, against the present figure of \$5,200.

WITH THE VETERANS

Washington, D. C. — Veterans emerging from the armed services are being given an increasingly "good break" at jobs in manufacturing industries, the Labor Department revealed.

The number of veterans employed in such industries between December 15 and January 15 climbed by nearly a fourth to a total of 1,370,000, surveys by the department showed. The new gain raises the proportion of ex-service men in this field to 11 1-2 per cent of the total number of factory employees.

The priority given veterans is demonstrated, the report declared, in the fact that they constituted 40 per cent of all workers hired in manufacturing during January. Also, they have greater job security. The lay-off rate among veterans is 20 per cent below that of non-veterans, the department stated.

Trade unions are credited with major responsibility in the good showing, although the report did not say so. Unions have been active in seeing that veterans are restored to their old jobs and in placement of many who did not not have jobs before they entered military service.

Coal Negotiations Are Resumed; Anthracite Shutdown Looms

Washington, D. C.—Direct negotiations between representatives of the United Mine Workers Union and the soft coal operators were resumed here after a 19-day lapse at the request of Secretary of Labor Schwelmbach.

Former Assistant Secretary of Labor Edward F. McGrady was appointed a special Federal mediator in an attempt to work out early settlement of the nation-wide shut-down.

Although no "concrete progress" as reported after the first conference, it was said that the participants showed an encouragingly cooperative attitude.

John L. Lewis, UMW president, is insisting that the coal operators enter into a satisfactory agreement on safeguarding the health and safety of the coal miners before discussing other controversial points such as wage increases and hours of work.

Earlier, at Hazelton, Pa., Mr. Lewis warned that a shut-down of the nation's anthracite mines will take place at the expiration of the existing contract May 31, unless a new agreement is reached.

About 400 delegates to the Pennsylvania Tri-District Scale Convention heard Mr. Lewis blame the stubbornness of the United States Steel Corp., for the shutdown of the soft coal mines.

Flourishing a copy of the corporation's 1945 financial report, Mr. Lewis emphasized that it had charged off \$123,000,000 last year for wear and tear on plant facilities.

"This mammoth corporation," said Mr. Lewis, "is holding the line against an agreement covering the safety and human welfare of the miners."

"We're going to see if U. S. Steel has any more right to write off millions in depreciation for wear and exhaustion of plant facilities than the miners have to write off expenditures for the exhaustion of human facilities."

The union leader said the hard coal miners' demands would be about the same as in the bituminous field, but he did not outline any specific program. It is expected that he will insist on health and safety provisions as well as wage increases.

He said the union is willing to meet the operators "half way" in the negotiations, but he did not predict any easy acquiescence from the industry. Contract improvements in the past, he recalled, were won "only when they were tortured out of operators after long months of negotiations."

Meanwhile, industry throughout the nation began to feel the pinch of the coal shortage and pressure increased for prompt settlement of the mine disputes. This was considered an important and hopeful sign because it was believed that only pressure from other industries would compel the stubborn coal operators to talk business with the union on reasonable terms.

HUTCHESON IS RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CARPENTERS

Lakeland, Fla.—William L. Hutcheson, president of the AFL United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners since 1915, was re-elected to that post at the annual convention here, first in six years. He was nominated without opposition, together with other officers and members of the executive board.

His son, Maurice A. Hutcheson, first vice president since 1938, was among the unopposed nominees. Others were Frank Duffy, general secretary; John R. Stevenson, second vice president, and Spurgeon P. Meadows, treasurer.

Reports to the delegates showed a membership record high of 722,000 and a treasury balance of more than \$9,000,000.

SAVING WAGE IS URGED BY MINNESOTA LEADER

Chicago—The recent-day goal of labor is not only a living wage but a "saving wage" President Robert A. Olson of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor told the national convention of AFL State, County and Municipal Employees.

President Olson pointed out that "such a wage should be high enough to cover all necessities, a few luxuries, an annual vacation at a resort and something for a "rainy day."

W. M. (Bill) MATTHEWS Is A Candidate for Nomination To The Board of County Commissioners

in the approaching Democratic Primary, May 25, 1946

Mr. Matthews was born in Mecklenburg County and has resided here all of his life.

He is a successful business man, being engaged in the automobile sales and used car enterprise.

His father, the late W. R. Matthews, was for ten years a representative in the legislature from this County, and was one of our most respected citizens.

Mr. Matthews is interested in County Government and, if elected, will devote his best thought and effort to its affairs.

(Paid Political Advertisement)



For Clerk of Superior Court

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and

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Subject Democratic Primary, May 25, 1946
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For
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
Mecklenburg County



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Vote for
HAMILTON C. JONES
For Congress
from the
Tenth Congressional District

In the Primary to be held on May 25th
He is a former President of the North Carolina Bar Association, the Mecklenburg Bar Association, State Senator, and Chairman of the Democratic Party in Mecklenburg County; former Recorder and Juvenile Court Judge, and civic and church leader. He is and has been "fair to the Working Man"; he will make an able, efficient and conscientious representative of the people.
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