

EDITORIAL

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

(and Dixie Farm News)

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The Labor Journal will not be responsible for opinions of corre-
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the columns of The Labor Journal will be gladly corrected when called
to the attention of the publisher. Correspondence and Open Forum
opinions solicited.

OUR SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY

Sixteen years ago The Charlotte Labor Journal was born in a little one-room office upstairs at the corner of College and East Fourth streets, having been conceived in the minds of two members of Charlotte Typographical Union several months beforehand, the writer, and Brother W. M. Witter, associate editor of this newspaper.

In some ways the conditions today are similar to those of 15 years ago. But in reverse, in at least one respect. Then the people had no money and jobs were at a premium. Today the people have plenty of money and experienced workers are at a premium. What a contrast.

However, The Charlotte Labor Journal today, as it did 16 years ago, had its hopes hanging high. The Journal feels quite sure that before so very long it can again chronicle normal times. We felt that way about the conditions prevailing during depression days. We still have faith in our employers of labor in our brothers in the labor movement, and in all of those citizens who are doing all possible to see that our country comes through these trying days.

To those who have supported our newspaper and our working people down through the past 16 years we say "Thank you, thank you." As has been our policy in the past we this year again reproduce our Salutatory Editorial, which appeared in the first issue of The Journal on May 15, 1931. It was written by Brother Witter and was concurred in by the writer; therein we outlined some of our aims in 1931. Today, after bringing it out from its resting place and dusting it off, although yellowed with age, we hoist it to the top of our mast and will use it as our banner throughout the year, feeling certain that if he take advantage of its contents that it will steer us into greater ways of service to our fellowman.

Due to the serious newsprint shortage we have delayed our 1946 Anniversary edition until this week. It should have appeared on May 16. Experienced labor has been lacking also, not to mention other handicaps. These obstacles, too, are being slowly overcome and when things become close to normal again we hope to greet you in new dress, with issues cut on time. Again, many thanks, friends!

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

[Taken From Vol. 1, No. 1, of The Journal, May 15, 1931]

"With this issue The Charlotte Labor Journal makes its bow to the ranks of organized labor in this vicinity, and the public in general. It is given to the worker and his friends and sympathizers in an unpretending way, with no blowing of horns or beating of drums, void of pomp and boasting, its promoters realizing that it is far better to begin in a small way and enlarge than to undertake a more pretentious publication and decrease. We wish to lay a foundation upon the solid rock of sincerity, honesty of purpose and good will.

"The labor field in Charlotte is broad, and one that is assuming a larger part in the life of our city—industrially, financially, socially, educationally, and otherwise—and organized labor stands out as an almost perfect exemplification of what can be done by a body of law-abiding, honest, church-going, home-loving, home-owning and progressive class of workers. They are working and have worked for the upbuilding of society and themselves—spending their earnings which passes the two million dollar mark annually, at home—building a bigger and better Charlotte and laying the foundation for a future citizenship of which any city or community in the world may well be proud.

"In politics, The Journal will be absolutely and unalterably independent, standing at all times for the right of the organized worker—and all workers—and supporting, at all times, candidates from the ranks of labor, and endorsed by the properly constituted authority, knowing full well that a candidate, to pass the ordeal, to secure this endorsement will be worthy in every way of our support and the confidence of the people of Charlotte in general.

"In every movement for the betterment of our city, The Journal will be found with its shoulder to the wheel, adding its support and weight for successful culmination.

"It is not socialistic, bolshevistic or anarchistic. It is against Communism or any other 'ism' that will pull down society, and array worker against employer, believing that sober judgment, mediation and arbitration is the correct method by which to settle disputes, believing that worker, as well as employer, has the right to organize for the betterment of his condition.

"And setting our course along these lines we will sail our frail bark, we hope, into a successful port, making friends, holding for that which is right and good, and steering clear of all alliances which may be detrimental to ourselves, organized labor and the community at large."

RUTH TAYLOR SAYS:

What Would You Believe?

"It isn't important what we believe, but how we express those beliefs that matters." "It isn't so much what we do, but what we are." Those are two copy book sayings that have been repeated and repeated in various forms. And they have been twisted and turned to apply to almost every situation.

Personally I feel they are wrong. It does matter what we believe as much as it does how we express those beliefs. It matters as much what we do as what we are. But what is most important of all is the motive power back of both thoughts and actions.

What doesn't matter is not what happens to us—but whether what we do is important to be done. We may be personally defeated, but our principles never, a great thinker once said. The truly important thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.

Where we go wrong—in our own lives, in our national lives, in our everyday responsibilities is in not trueing out actions to a high enough motive. We act on

expedience, not on principle. We compromise—not with things, but with our own beliefs, with our own conscience. We dodge responsibility, we evade issues, and the truth eludes us, because of our own weaknesses.

Here's an example. We say that one of the great principles in American life is the denial of absolute sovereignty. Is it? Or, rather, is it put into effect? Just try denying the absolute sovereignty in "efficient" organizations and see how far you get. Did you ever try not "going along with the boys"?

What we should have said was that this is a motive power—and then try to put it into practice.

All life proceeds from beliefs of some kind. The question is not—shall we have beliefs? But—what beliefs have we? Are they a vital part of our every day life? Are we better for our beliefs? Do they help us to help those whose paths or path crosses? Unless we can answer in the affirmative our beliefs are vain.

What do you believe—and how do you live up to your beliefs?

CONVENTION CALENDAR OF A.F.L. UNIONS

July 1—American Flint Glass Worker's Union (Hisc.)—Champaign, Ill.

July 8—Washington State Federation of Labor—Spokane, Wash.

July 8—Intl. Brotherhood of Fireman and Oilers—Chicago, Ill.

July 8—Glass Bottle Blowers' Ass'n, U. S. and Canada—Undecided.

July 15—Brotherhood of Bookbinder—Boston, Mass.

July 15—Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees—Detroit, Mich.

July 15—Intl. Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union—Houston, Texas.

July 22—Intl. Alliance of Stage Employees & M. P. M. O.—Chicago, Ill.

July 22—Michigan State Federation of Labor—Grand Rapids.

July 29—Ohio State Federation of Labor—Cleveland, Ohio.

Aug. 5—Idaho State Federation of Labor—Pocatello, Idaho.

Aug. 6—Iowa State Federation of Labor—Davenport, Iowa.

Aug. 12—North Carolina State Federation of Labor—High Point, N. C.

Aug. 17—International Typographical Union—Miami Beach, Fla.

Aug. 17—Massachusetts State Federation of Labor—Undecided.

Aug. 19—New York State Federation of Labor—Rochester, N. Y.

Aug. 19—National Federation of Post Office Clerks—Milwaukee, Wis.

Aug. 19—Utah State Federation of Labor—Price, Utah.

Aug. 19—Wisconsin State Federation of Labor—Superior, Wis.

Aug. 19—Photo Engravers Union of North America—Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sept. 1—Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers—San Francisco, Cal.

Sept. 2—National Association of Letter Carriers—Detroit, Mich.

Sept. 3—Connecticut State Federation of Labor—Undecided.

Sept. 3—Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers—San Francisco, Cal.

Sept. 5—Intl. Association of Siderographers—Philadelphia, Pa.

Sept. 9—Intl. Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers—Albany, N. Y.

Sept. 9—United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers Union—Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sept. 9—Intl. Association of Fire Fighters—Toledo, Ohio.

Sept. 9—Operative Plasterers' Intl. of U. S. and Canada—Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sept. 9—Kentucky State Federation of Labor—Owensboro, Ky.

Sept. 9—Nebraska Federation of Labor—Scottsbluff, Neb.

Sept. 11—Oklahoma State Federation of Labor—Shawnee, Okla.

Sept. 15—Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters—Chicago, Ill.

Sept. 16—United Slate, Tile, Comp. Roofers; DXW wrks.—Denver, Colo.

Sept. 16—Bakery & Con. Workers' Intl. Union of Am.—Chicago, Ill.

Sept. 16—Intl. Union of Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers—Chicago, Ill.

Sept. 16—Illinois State Federation of Labor—Rockford, Ill.

Sept. 16—Minnesota State Federation of Labor—Mankato, Minn.

Sept. 17—Distillery, Rectifying and Wine Wrks, Intl.—Montreal, Can.

Sept. 20—American Wire Weavers Protective Ass'n, New York, N. Y.

Sept. 21—New Hampshire State Federation of Labor—Portsmouth, N. H.

Sept. 26—West Virginia State Federation of Labor—Huntington, W. Va.

Sept. 30—Metal Trades Department—Chicago, Ill.

Oct. 2—Natl. Org. of Masters, Mates and Pilots—San Francisco, San Francisco, Cal.

Oct. 2—Building and Construction Trades Dept.—Chicago, Ill.

Oct. 4—Union Label Trades Department—Chicago, Ill.

Oct. 5—Nat. Assn. Master Mech. and Foremen of N. Y.—Silver City, N. M.

Nov.—New Mexico State Federation of Labor—Silver City, N. M.

Nov. 5—New Mexico State Federation of Labor—Washington, D. C.

The Cherry Tree

I have been reading a great deal about certain opposition to what is loosely called "socialized medicine."

I have yet to see a person define socialized medicine while opposing it.

Now if a person wants to oppose a piece of proposed legislation dealing with medicine, or with medical operations to be conducted by the state or a political subdivision, one can respect that opposition.

But what respect is due a broadside in which there is no definition?

It seems to me that the whole-hog opponent of socialized medicine should seek abolition of all health departments. They are operated by political government. If it be said that they do not practice medicine, then we have to warp our idea about what constitutes the practice of medicine.

For every health department that is worth its salt practices preventive medicine. It seeks to prevent or eradicate causes of illness. And most health departments have nurses who certainly practice nursing.

It seems to me that the American Medical Association has got by about long enough with its blanket broadsides. Gentlemen, what do you mean when you say "socialized medicine?" Be specific!

Does the United States Public Health Service practice medicine? Again, it depends upon what you mean. But if prevention or cure have anything to do with it, the AMA ought to look into what the USPHS is doing to find cures for some of the most baffling diseases—as well as look into its prevention work.

What the AMA does is a good deal like saying that "the French are a volatile people." Some are and some are not. Blanket indictments usually are faulty.

Once it was customary to say that "newspapermen are drunks." It never was true. Some were; some were not. Ditto with the painters and printers.

Opponents of anything should describe that which they oppose.

Shall we say that Army and Navy doctors and hospitals constitute socialized medicine? They are run by "the state," for the Army and Navy are subject to control by the civilian branches of the government.

The Army and Navy are practicing medicine all over the place and they have done and are doing grand work, on the whole. And many a doctor, having been thru the War with the armed services, is a better doctor for the vast experience. Many a surgeon is a better surgeon.

Does his self-respect suffer for having been a doctor on a government payroll? Well, ask one of them. Mostly they are proud as Punch.

Too much discussion about the public issues, including this one, is carried on with the confusing help of generalities.

The same type of generalities bolster most of the argument of those who indulge in racial hates and prejudices. You hear "all Jews are . . ." and "all Negroes are . . ." "All Germans" and "all Japs" have come in for blanket indictment—yet, here and there is one who revolts against the things his country stands for.

Maybe there is something about medicine that would be injured by certain governmental practices. Maybe. But let us know just what it is.

Would government operation of hospitals be detrimental to the patients' interests?

If that is the idea, then let the opponents say so—and let them at

meanings (because undefined) generality. The old saying about giving a dog a bad name has truth in it. Is that what the AMA is trying to do? Let us be well informed, not misinformed. To be well informed means possession of facts, not merely a collection of adjectives. Let's have facts.—CMW.

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