

Editorial

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL & DIXIE FARM NEWS
Published Weekly at Charlotte, N. C.

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Entered as second-class mail matter September 11, 1931, at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

Official Organ of the Charlotte Central Labor Union and Approved by The American Federation of Labor and the North Carolina Federation of Labor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$2.00 per year, payable in advance or 5c per copy.

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GOMPERS' EDITORIAL SHOWS SIGNIFICANCE OF LABOR DAY

Over the years since 1882 much has been said concerning the significance of Labor Day. One of the best statements was made by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in the following editorial written 46 years ago for the American Federationist. While the reference to the 19th Century is remote, Gompers' remarks are timeless in point.

No day in the calendar is a greater fixture, one which is more truly regarded as a real holiday, or one which is so surely destined to endure for all time, than the first Monday in September of each recurring year, Labor Day.

Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year of any country. All other holidays are in, a more or less degree, connected with conflict and battles, of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed or power, of glories achieved by one nation over another.

Labor Day, on the other hand, marks a new epoch in the annals of human history. It is at once a manifestation of reverence for the struggles of the masses against tyranny and injustice from time immemorial; an impetus to battle for the right in our day for the men, women and children of our time and gives hope and encouragement for the attainment of the aspirations for the future of the human family.

It is devoted to no man, living or dead; to no sect, sex, race or nation. It is founded upon the highest principles of humanity, is as broad in its scope as the universe.

It was not given to but conquered by labor, and established as a holiday before any legislature, state or national, enacted it into law.

The marching toilers in the Labor Day demonstrations signalize no martial glory, brutal domination, conquests or warlike pomp. They are, in their essence, the manifestations of the growing intelligence of the workers who recognize that peace is as essential to successful industry and real progress as air is to lung-breathing animals; that justice to the toilers has too long been denied; that in the midst of the civilization at the close of the 19th Century, wrongs too gross, widespread and well known to require mention here, still abound; that if man is to be free in the time to come, eternal vigilance must be exercised, organization of the workers proclaimed, maintained and extended; education of the educated as well as of the masses be furthered and nurtured, and agitation of labor's wrongs endured and rights denied undertaken, with all the zest and energy begotten by devotion to a cause which is at once holy, noble, pure, lofty, just, wise and humane.

LABOR DAY...1948



PUT OUT THE FIRES...SAVE THE FOREST

LABOR DAY 1948...A day for America to roll up its sleeves

Time for labor to beat down the flames that threaten the nation. High prices, discrimination, bad housing and anti-labor laws must end. Fifteen million union workers resolve today to lead the fight for a better America. Men of all races, religions and national origins will work together for the good of all!

GREEN'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)
ness is going to bat for the members of the 80th Congress who did its bidding. The voters will be flooded with propaganda praising the legislative record. Money talks in politics, and this year the big money will be talking on the side of anti-labor Congressmen and Senators.

But in America, even the power of money cannot overcome the indignation of a free people. Remember the 80th Congress was elected by only one-third of the qualified voters of the country. The hosts of labor who stayed away from the polls in that 1946 election helped to elect reactionary lawmakers by not voting. This must be changed in 1948. No union member can be a good union member unless he is a loyal American first. No American citizen can be a good citizen unless he votes.

It is imperative that every union member in our ranks registers and votes in the 1948 election. His duty goes even beyond that. He should see to it that every member of his family of voting age and all his friends, likewise, register and

GREETINGS

The Charlotte Labor Journal extends sincere greetings to advertisers and subscribers on Labor Day 1948. In behalf of the local labor unions affiliated with the Charlotte Central Labor Union The Journal wishes for Labor's friends a happy occasion and it hopes that enemies of labor will soon begin to know and understand that the working people of the nation are human beings whose God-given love extends to all.

The Journal extends special thanks to its advertisers for having so generously expressed good will toward North Carolina Labor by way of the advertising columns in this 1948 Labor Day issue of this newspaper.

TRUMAN'S MESSAGE

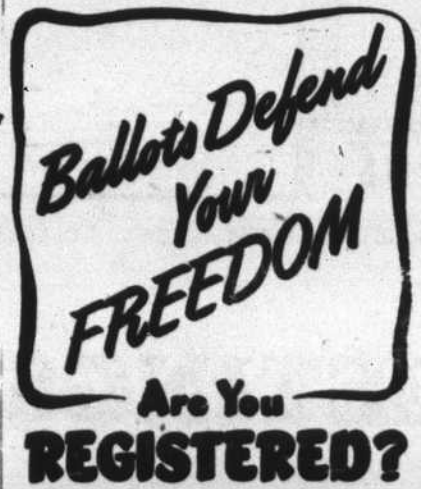
(Continued from Page 1)
crease our economic strength and to improve our national standard of living.

This year labor, always interested in good government, is making great efforts to get out the vote in November. It is to be hoped that every eligible voter—not just the customary minority of those eligible—will go to the polls and register an opinion on what course the United States should take in the days ahead. Then, the outcome will be the decision of all America.

Labor was in the forefront when our democracy was challenged on the battlefield and in the factory. We all know that labor will be in the forefront in meeting the challenge of today's peacetime problems to that same democracy.

vote. Remember the slogan: "USE YOUR VOTE!"

From a long-range standpoint, the peace of the world depends upon the power of America to safeguard the peace. America must remain strong. To keep strong, our country must remain politically free and economically healthy. The policies instituted by the 80th Congress are sapping the economic strength of our nation and depriving millions of citizens organized in the trade union movement of basic freedoms. Those policies must be reversed.



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