

Editorial

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

—AND DIXIE FARM NEWS
Published at Charlotte, North Carolina

H. A. Stalls, Editor and Publisher W. M. Witter, Associate Editor

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OF A
FREE PRESS
SHINE IN DARK PLACES"

SOUTHERN LABOR PRESS ASSOCIATION

A MESSAGE TO THE DELEGATES TO THE 41st ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR FROM THE PUBLISHER OF THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL:

Welcome delegates—welcome to all of those among you who are "old timers" and with whom we were privileged to join over thirty years ago for the good fight. Welcome too, to all the "new-comers" and "young fellows," who arrived after the fight was won, but who are carrying on in the good tradition of A. F. of L. Welcome to all of you, and may your deliberations bear fruit, and may your decisions be crowned with the wisdom of Solomon, and your kindness and generosity be inspired by the Gospel of Him Whom we call Master.

You shall need your wisdom. You shall need your kindness. You shall need your generosity. Above all, you shall need your sense of fair play and sense of justice.

You shall need all of these virtues because you will be confronted with many decisions and problems both domestic and foreign, both internal and external.

The growing roster of unemployed in our State will need your consideration. The everlasting vigilance against any communist infiltration will need your consideration.

The program to maintain present employment, and increase production, will need your consideration.

Some internal matters will also need your consideration.

For example, there is the matter with which we are personally concerned—the matter of the Labor Press in the State of North Carolina.

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL was the first paper devoted exclusively to the welfare of the American Federation of Labor in the two Carolinas. It went through good years and it went through bad years. It went through periods when there was hardly a worker in North Carolina who could afford to pay \$2 a year for a publication. But it weathered all these storms—it always came out—it never wavered for a moment from its solemn purpose—the welfare and the growth of the State Federation.

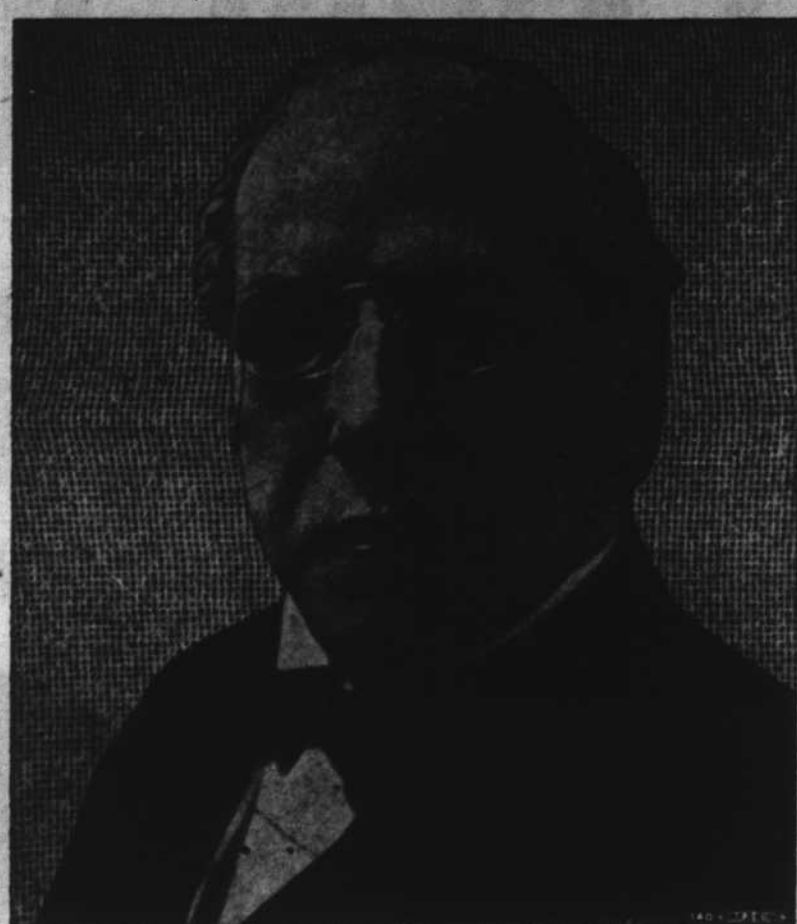
The State Federation, in the past, has overlooked the tremendous force and power of the free labor press in our State for its welfare, and it is time now to correct the oversight. We do not mean that any subsidy or "hand-out" is required. We do mean, however, that there should be more co-operation—not alone with the Federation's own publication, but with the independent labor press—the free labor press operated by individual publishers, who years ago spurned a more secure livelihood in order to fight the good fight for the expansion of the trade movement in our state. The State Federation should encourage the free labor press and should help it to expand in every way possible and wherever in the state it can do so. Most of all, it should remove all obstacles from the path of the existing labor papers, so that news, and other help may be easier obtained and thus enable individual publishers to build in the future as they have built in the past.

The CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL, first in the field, is proud of its part in the growth of the State Federation, and happily looks forward to many more years of fruitful association.

May that true American spirit of fair play and justice guide you all in your deliberations.

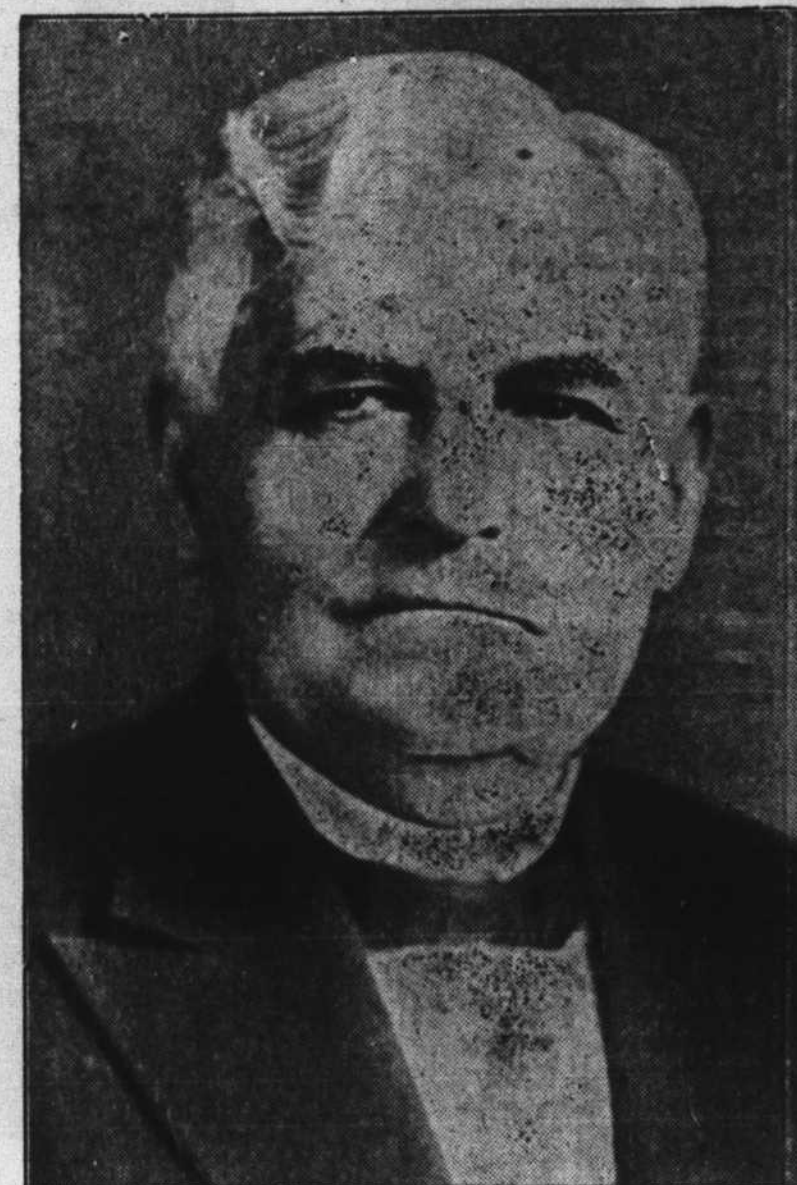
WELCOME TO NORTH CAROLINA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR CONVENTION FROM ONE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S PIONEERS IN ESTABLISHMENT OF ORGANIZED LABOR.

It is with pride that Charlotte labor welcomes the 41st annual convention of the North Carolina State Federation of Labor, AFL, which was organized in 1905. In the years gone by when labor organizations in North Carolina were few, Charlotte stood out as the beacon, with its trials and tribulations, throughout the years, in fighting for betterment of the conditions of the working class in general. While the writer has seen the conditions of the craftsmen come up from almost unbelievable conditions (as to hours, wages and working conditions), with only one real struggle where a death resulted, as the aftermath of imported strikebreakers, which some of the old-timers remember, to a status of a more friendly feeling towards the organized labor movement, which the American Federation of Labor has brought about through a program of fair deal-



SAMUEL GOMPERS (Deceased)

Above: Samuel Gompers, first president of the American Federation of Labor, who set the American Labor movement a good enough pattern to guide it successfully down through the years and below, Frank Morrison, who served as AFL secretary-treasurer for nearly a half century, and who knew more about the American Labor movement than any other living man when he died in Washington several months ago at nearly 90 years of age.



FRANK MORRISON (Deceased)

ing, and asking only for such contracts between employer and employe as would meet the changing conditions and times through which we are passing.

The Labor movement in North Carolina owes much to Charlotte Unionists, and as a charter member—having helped secure the charter for local 338, Charlotte Typographical Union, in 1897—this writer has seen the movement grow; has seen its trials and tribulations, even at the time, in 1937, when the State AFL was slated by those who were in power at that time for transfer, lock, stock and barrel, into the newly formed John L. Lewis' CIO, but which move was thwarted by such men as President Fink, this writer, The Charlotte Labor Journal and others of the AFL who made a winning fight against being absorbed.

The American Federation of Labor has kept a clean record nationally and in the State, and Charlotte's citizens owe much to that body for its efforts and wise leadership in keeping Labor out of the ranks of Communism. This writer believes today as he did when he first got his union card in Typographical Union No. 60, Roanoke, Virginia, about 58 years ago, that the AFL is a body which is seeking only the uplift of the workers, the middle man, and does not stand for the destruction of "big business." It can only survive itself, as business goes forward, and how can business survive if the workers go backward?

The Labor Journal, its editor and publisher, Henry A. Stalls, who was a co-founder of The Journal, having relinquished his part in the publication the first year, resuming, by purchase, its publication some four years ago, along with this writer, greets the North Carolina State Federation of Labor Convention and wishes for a session that will be useful, uplifting and helpful to the Labor movement in North Carolina, and that harmony and fair dealing may mark its every decision.

W. M. WITTER, Associate Editor,
Charlotte Labor Journal.

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