

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Published weekly at Charlotte, N. C.

OLDEST LABOR PUBLICATION IN THE TWO CAROLINAS

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WELCOME HOME, BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE CONFERENCE!

The Charlotte Labor Journal would be derelict in its duty should it fail to join Charlotte Typographical Union in extending an invitation and welcome to the Virginia-Carolinas, District of Columbia Typographical Conference to hold its 1952 Silver Anniversary meeting in Charlotte, the "mother city" of the Conference. This we do with all sincerity.

Although some of the conference district's older members for several years had considered forming the conference before it actually took on form, the conference was officially organized and began doing business in Charlotte, the Queen City of the South, 24 years ago. From that small gathering, compared to the number of delegates who attend each annual meeting now, the printers of Virginia, North and South Carolina and the District of Columbia have really gone places.

Today, the good that has been accomplished stands out as a monument to the foresight of those stalwarts who made the original arrangements for its formation back in 1926 while aboard a train speeding them back home from an annual session of International Typographical Union convention, held in Colorado Springs. Lest many have forgotten who they were The Journal recalls seven of them, one of whom is a member of Charlotte Typographical Union, who has been employed by this publication for the past several years. He is Oscar H. Starnes. Brother Starnes' fellow delegates to that 1926 convention were Brothers Dowell Patterson, first conference president, and now superintendent of the Union Printers Home at Colorado Springs; Giles C. Courtney, of Richmond, who served as an I. T. U. representative in the Southeast for many years, and who was named the first secretary-treasurer of the conference; Lee Woody, deceased, of Richmond, one of the best union printers this writer has ever known regardless of whether he was acting as printer, copy cutter, foreman, superintendent, or official of the Union, his fairness to both his fellow workers and the employer was always admired; C. W. Bennett, Jr., of Norfolk; George Cross of Greensboro; and Giles Curry of Asheville.

The first meeting was held in the Mecklenburg hotel in Charlotte and proved to be a very enthusiastic one. At that gathering it was decided to hold two conference meetings a year in various cities throughout the district. This was done for several years and is the reason the Norfolk meeting is known as the thirty-first session although but 24 years old.

Both the editor and associate editor of The Journal are members of the ITU. It has been our privilege to attend many meetings of the conference, as delegates and visitors. The activities of the conference and its growth have been followed closely by us. We have enjoyed immensely mingling with our brothers at these meetings and partaking of the hospitality of the various unions throughout the district. In the past we have endeavored to reflect our love for the conference and its activities through our efforts to make welcome those of our conference delegates and visitors who have attended past meetings in Charlotte, and The Journal assures each and every delegate and visitor to the Norfolk conference, together with those who will be elected to serve next year, that a grand and gala event awaits you in Charlotte, the mother city, in 1952. Our local typographical union will, The Journal predicts, surpass its efforts of past years to make your stay here both happy and profitable.

A WORD FROM BROTHER STARNES

To the Thirty-First Convention, Virginia-Carolinas Typographical Conference, Assembled:

Let me add my personal invitation to that of Charlotte Typographical Union and The Charlotte Labor Journal and others to the conference to hold its Silver Anniversary meeting in Charlotte. Let's have a grand home-coming back in the "mother city" next year, take stock of our activities and past accomplishments and also make plans for further advancement of our sister unions and their members throughout the district we serve.

I know your visit with us will be both joyous and profitable. I'll be looking for you.

Fraternally,
OSCAR H. STARNES.

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NEW 35-CENT MINIMUM SET FOR P. R. CLOTHING INDUSTRY

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A minimum hourly wage of 35 cents an hour for employees in the men's and boys' clothing and related products industry in Puerto Rico went into effect May 14, according to a wage order issued under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

This was announced by Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the U. S. Labor Department's Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, who informed Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin that the new 35-cent rate replaces the previous rate of 24 cents an hour.

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