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State Bodies Vote for Industrial Unionism

Kidnapping and Frame-ups Mark War on Strikers

KIDNAPPED BY THUGS



Matt Lynch, militant young strike leader, who was kidnapped because of his activities in organizing the Rockwood Hosiery Mill workers.

STRIKE LEADER



Jim Hinds, Union Leader, in Jail On a Dynamiting Charge.

LATE NEWS FLASH: The Tennessee State Federation of Labor, following its convention at Chattanooga, moved to Rockwood and picketed the mill here. Leading labor representatives spoke. The mayor and the vigilantes agreed that peaceful picketing would be permitted.

ROCKWOOD, Tenn.—The arrest of Jim Hinds and Joe Polston, leaders in the hosiery mill strike here, on a dynamiting charge, marks the fifth week of thug and police terror against the Rockwood workers. Hinds and Polston are charged with having dynamited the Rockwood water main while they were thrown into the Kingston county jail, the picket line at the Rockwood Hosiery Mill gate was met by a mob of cops and deputies with drawn guns.

The Rockwood Hosiery Mill workers have been out on strike for a month. The mill was struck five weeks ago when the mill bosses announced that the workers would have to put in 10 hours a day instead of eight, with no increase in pay. Top wages at the Rockwood Mill are \$1.60, but the average worker makes less than a dollar.

Nearly fifty arrests, one kidnapping and vicious threats to strike leaders mark the mill bosses' (Continued on Page 4)

Drive to Organize South Launched at Hosiery Meeting

PHILADELPHIA.—A drive to organize the hosiery mills of the South was launched at the 25th annual convention of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers. A 3 percent assessment was voted to cover the expenses of the organizing drive. Fourteen organizers are to be placed in the Southern hosiery mill districts.

Emil Rieve was re-elected president of the Hosiery Workers, over two opposing candidates, Paul Vogel of New Jersey and Ernest Fernfield of Philadelphia.

The convention reconfirmed its position for a national Farmer-Labor Party and instructed the National Executive Board to use all means at their disposal to bring about the formation of such a Party.

U. M. W. A. Leads In Battle For Progressive Measures At Tenn.-Ala. Conventions

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—The 29th annual convention of the Tennessee Federation of Labor met in Chattanooga on May 5-7 in what was perhaps the most important meeting in its history.

The most striking picture of the growing militancy of the labor movement was the constant pressure of the Rockwood Hosiery Mill strike. On the first day of the convention a resolution condemning the kidnapping of Matt Lynch was introduced by Bill Turbblater, District President of the U.M.W.A. and leader of a delegation of 47 miners, and passed with unanimous support. On the second day a delegation of Rockwood strikers took the floor to describe the latest outrages of the gun-thugs. The convention reached a high point on this issue by going up in a body to Rockwood the day after the adjournment of the regular sessions, to establish the right of assembly and mass picketing which was being denied to the strikers. These facts, as well as the constant reference to the terror in Rockwood by even such leaders as George Googe, Southern representative of the A.F. of L., and J. M. Ornburn, head of the Union label department of the A.F. of L., demonstrates that there is a growing solidarity of the workers which is penetrating throughout the organized ranks of trade unionists.

Industrial Resolution Passed

The Industrial Resolution introduced by the U.M.W.A. delegation, which was a duplicate of the original minority resolution of John L. Lewis at the 55th A.F. of L. convention, was finally passed by a vote of 94 to 54, after a spirited debate in which the craft union forces, headed by Delegate Leahy, International Representative of the Machinists, tried their utmost to defeat the resolution and obstruct its passage.

The resolution was introduced with more than half the delegates signatures affixed to it as a result of the energetic campaign of the miners for their resolution. Tennessee was the third Southern State Federation of Labor Convention within a week to go on record for industrial organization, following Georgia and Alabama.

Oppose Anti-Sedition Law

Among other progressive moves were the actions against the Ten-

(Continued on Page 5)

NEW PRESIDENT



William Mitch Elected Head of the Alabama Federation of Labor.

FLORENCE, Ala.—The Alabama State Federation of Labor went on record for industrial unionism at its 35th annual convention, recently when it elected William Mitch, U. M. W. A. leader, as president of the state federation and passed a resolution calling for the organization of the unorganized mass production industries on an industrial union basis.

Mitch was elected by a vote of 352 to 125, defeating Sam Roper, president of the Tri-Cities Plumbers' Union. Roper was a friend of Bob Moore, former state president, and Governor Bill Graves' Commissioner of Labor. The election of Mitch and the defeat of Roper means a victory for the more progressive forces in the state over the Old Guard labor politicians.

William G. Hare, one of the old Bob Moore gang, was re-elected as secretary.

Tax Voted

The resolution on industrial unionism called upon the international unions to levy a 5 percent per capita tax to send trained organizers into Alabama to organize the unorganized. And, especially important, it called for "a vigorous and concerted drive nationally looking towards complete organization of steel and other unorganized mass production plants or industries on an industrial basis."

A resolution for a Farmer-Labor party was defeated when the resolutions committee brought in a recommendation of non-concurrence charging that the resolution was "Communist inspired." Following the vote on this issue, W. H. Rainey, international representative of the U.M.W. and W. C. Irby, state secretary of the Alabama Farmers' Union spoke on the necessity of independent political action by the workers and farmers and were roundly applauded.

Resolutions approved included recommendation of a child labor amendment, an amendment to the U. S. Constitution to permit Congress to enact social legislation in coal, textiles, etc.; the Black 30-hour week bill; poll tax reform; and adjustment of the WPA scales under which Southern workers suffer discrimination. Other resolutions attacked espionage and protested against the steel companies' storing up arms and

(Continued on Page 2)

Three Negroes Are Lynched In One Week

Three Negroes were dead within seven days by mob violence as a new wave of lynchings swept the South last week. Lint Shaw, a 30-year-old Negro farmer in Georgia, was the first victim. Willie Kees, 19-year-old Negro youth of Lepanto, Arkansas, and John Ruskin, 55-year-old Negro farmworker of Pavo, Georgia, were the others. In Huntsville, Ala., Walter Miller, a 35-year-old Negro farmer, was almost lynched when he was brought there to be charged with the murder of a white girl. Miller was the sixth innocent Negro to be nearly lynched for this murder, in which there is no evidence against him.

Lint Shaw, the father of eleven children, was pointed out by an hysterical white girl at Danielsville, Georgia, as the man who had "choked" her. Shaw explained that at his house he had heard the girl's screams from down the road and gone to see if he could help. He was arrested and taken to Atlanta for safe-keeping.

(Continued on Page 7)

TRADE UNION TOPICS

By NED TRUE

THE 35th annual convention of the Alabama State Federation of Labor made history. Its progressive accomplishments have won the praise of thousands of workers throughout the state. But its progressive record was marred and blemished by a fit of the old, disgraceful red-baiting which came up in the third day's session.

It is good that the red-baiting was carried on only by two or three of the Old Guard labor politicians. These parasites, who are in the movement only for their own selfish gain, are on the way out, as the election of Mitch and the vote for industrial unionism showed. The tragedy is that there were enough of them left in 1936 to disrupt the serious work of the convention.

Chief among them was Yelverton Cowherd, a Birmingham lawyer and chairman of the Americanization Committee of the American Legion. Because it is no doubt a mystery to you how a lawyer and Legion flag-waver came to be in a labor convention, let us advise you that back in the dim dark past, Mr. Cowherd procured a card in the musicians' union. Although today Mr. Cowherd doesn't even play a piccolo he holds on to that card — FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

Mr. Cowherd was aided by that notorious stooge of the labor politicians, Ike Robinson, whose fearless campaign against the Reds has won him praise from Mill McDuff, T. C. I. and Republic Steel.

MR. Robinson had introduced a resolution attacking the recent strike of some 5,000 WPA workers called by the suburban council of the Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union. Mr. Robinson was deeply agitated, it seemed, because of "Communist activity" in the strike.

Several delegates rose to object to this resolution. President Moore recognized James Neal, delegate from the U. T. W. at Huntsville. Brother Neal is not a Communist—he is simply an honest trade unionist. He pointed out that such a resolution was FASCIST, and that Fascism, not Communism, represented a danger for the working class.

It was then that Mr. Cowherd got the floor. For some unaccountable reason he had become chairman of the resolutions committee. He launched into a bitter attack against the Communist Party, and charged that the Communists are trying to stir up "race hatred." What evidence did Mr. Cowherd have?

He had a resolution calling for the abolition of the poll tax and favoring the right to vote for the Negro people, as a means of increasing the vote of the workers, white and Negro.

This resolution, he said, had been given to Walter W. Jones, Negro, district vice president of the United Mine Workers, by a Communist. Brother Jones, he said, had brought the resolution directly to him and had pointed out the wicked Communist who thought that all the working people, black and white, should be allowed to vote.

Mr. Cowherd then pretended to read the resolution to the convention? He did not read it as it was. He was afraid to do that because he knew that the majority of delegates would approve the resolution. He would read a sentence, then make a speech, another sentence, another speech. And he distorted it in such a way as to make it appear that the Communists were not interested in winning the right to vote for impoverished white workers and farmers.

All who differed with Mr. Cowherd were silenced by the gavel of President Moore.

THE resolution which Cowherd and Robinson labored valiantly to pass called on the locals to expel Communists from their ranks.

There is nothing in the Constitution of the Alabama Federation of Labor which bars Communists, and this resolution is clearly a violation of that document. But the passage of such a resolution raises a question. How long will the honest workers, members of the unions in Alabama, permit a few reactionary, fascist-minded labor politicians like Cowherd to stand in the way of a real trade union movement?

Who is more valuable to the Alabama labor movement, Cowherd, the silver-tongued lawyer, out for his own gain, or Communist workers who strive day and night to build the unions, who fight shoulder to shoulder with you on the picket lines, who will go without food, without sleep, and work themselves to the bone to win better conditions for the working people?

The answer is very clear, and it is becoming clearer to the mass of workers throughout the state. We urge the locals to refuse to carry out this arbitrary and unconstitutional "request" of the labor politicians, and at the next convention have a large delegation of honest workers who will put such parasites as Cowherd and Robinson in their proper place.

Atlanta Workers Faint With Hunger at Relief Stations

(By a Worker Correspondent)

ATLANTA, Ga.—The unemployed situation here in Atlanta is a very serious one. Hundreds of workers have been cut off and are being cut off every day to face starvation.

Women at the relief offices, hungry, with ragged clothes, are crying for bread for themselves and their children. Some look as though they haven't eaten for days, some even faint from hunger. All they get from the relief officials is: "Sorry, we can't do anything for you. There are hundreds of others in the same fix you are, and there is nothing we can do about it."

THE RULING CLAWS

By Redford



"I can swear I met him at McDuff's Detective Agency"

RESOLUTION ON THE RIGHT TO VOTE

WHEREAS: The vast majority of the working people of Alabama are unable to vote due to inability to pay poll tax and due to discrimination against citizens of the Negro race, and

WHEREAS: Such conditions strengthen the power of the financial interests and make it impossible for the common people of Alabama to receive proper consideration at the hands of the state officials, and

WHEREAS: A poll tax is discrimination in favor of the rich; and the denial of the right to vote to the Negro people is a violation in letter and spirit of the U. S. Constitution, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Convention of the Alabama State Federation of Labor go on record in favor of complete abolition of the poll tax and demand that all discrimination against citizens because of race, or color, be ended.

HOW ABOUT IT, BROTHER JONES?

THIS is the resolution which was given openly to Walter W. Jones, Negro, vice president of the United Mine Workers of America, by R. F. Hall, district secretary of the Communist Party. Brother Jones agreed to introduce this resolution into the convention, but he did not do so. Yelverton Cowherd, lawyer, Fascist, and politician, says that Brother Jones brought the resolution directly to him, as if it "were too hot to hold in his hands." Cowherd used this resolution as the basis for an attack on the Communist Party, claiming that Communists are trying to stir up "trouble between white and Negro."

Anyone who reads this resolution can see that it is a good resolution. It calls for the right to

vote for the Negro people, a right guaranteed them by the Constitution, but denied them by the Ku Klux Klan governments in the South. It calls for the abolition of the poll tax so that both Negro and white common people can vote.

Is Brother Jones against the right to vote for the Negro people? Is he against the abolition of the poll tax? If he is in favor of these things, why does he act like an agent for Cowherd? This is the question which Brother Jones must answer before the members of the United Mine Workers.

Regardless of this, however, let us all work to build the UMWA as a strong, militant union, the miners' defense against the bosses.

SQUATTERS WIN DEMANDS
ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The American Workers Union, an association of unemployed people, won the promise of relief and recognition of the union in St. Louis, after its

membership had "squatted" for 2 days and nights in the city hall. They refused to move, despite police threats, until the Mayor appeared and answered their demands.

ALA. LABOR CONVENTION (Continued from Page 1)

ammunition. The state anti-striking law was bitterly condemned. **Red Scare Introduced.**

The "red scare" was raised when a resolution was introduced by Ike Robinson, Tallahassee, attacking "Communist activity" in the recent strike of 5,000 WPA workers in Jefferson county, called by the district council of the Hod Carriers and Common Laborers Union. James M. Neal, United Textile Workers delegate, spoke against the resolution, stating that while he was not a Communist, he felt that such resolutions were dangerous. He pointed out the relationship between these resolutions and the growing danger of fascism. Yelverton Cowherd, an attorney and chairman of the Americanization committee of the Birmingham American Legion, and a member of the musicians' local, then spoke. He bitterly attacked the Communist Party. An attempt by Neal and others to get the floor again was defeated by President Robert Moore, and the resolution was passed.

INDUSTRIAL RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN GEORGIA

COLUMBUS, Ga. (UNSK)—Industrial organization of the mass production industries is officially advocated by the labor movement in Georgia following action of the recent State Federation of Labor convention here.

The Georgia Federation, under the resolution adopted, respectfully petitions the American Federation of Labor to adopt organizational policies in the unorganized mass production industries that will promote the organization of these workers into units where their full strength may be utilized for their protection, and which will obviate and avoid the possibility of dividing such workers into weak and futile divisions.

Rockwood Mill Workers Hold May Day Meeting

ROCKWOOD, Tenn.—The striking hosiery mill workers at Rockwood took part in their first May Day meeting this year, when a mass meeting was held in the yard of Jim Hinds, strike leader. The Brookwood players, a group of student actors from Brookwood Labor College in New York state, produced skits and led the workers in strike songs.

Ted Wellman, recording secretary of the Hod Carriers Union local in Chattanooga, told the Rockwood strikers about May Day and what it means to the workers. He pointed out that May Day has a particular meaning for the Rockwood strikers, because the first May Day was held fifty years ago during the struggle of American labor for the eight-hour working day. The Rockwood mill workers are on strike against the 10-hour day which the mill bosses tried to put upon them without a wage increase.

Belle Martin Is Arrested On WPA Picket Line

BIRMINGHAM.—The trial of Belle Weaver Martin, who was arrested here during the WPA strike last month was postponed until May 27 by Judge Abernathy. Belle Martin was charged with inciting to riot when she led a delegation of women members of the Hod Carriers Auxiliary to a sewing room project in East Birmingham in an effort to bring the women workers there out on strike. She was held five days in the county jail after the charge against her was changed from inciting to riot to one of unlawful assembly.

At the trial, six witnesses were brought in to testify against Mrs. Martin. These witnesses were foremen and superintendents on the sewing room project. They testified that Mrs. Martin led a band of Negro women to the project and started a fight in front of the place. Mrs. Martin repudiated their statements and told how the foremen and superintendents had used sticks and fists on the women, seriously injuring Mary Carter and Harriet Floyd, two of the women strikers. She also described how one of the project's officials drove a truck up over the curb into the group of women in an attempt to disperse the gathering.

Treated As Dangerous

At the county jail Belle Martin was treated as a dangerous Red, and not allowed to get in touch with anyone from outside, and the warden and other prison officials refused to tell her the nature of the charges against her. She was released under \$300 bond after nearly a week in jail.

In the court Belle Martin was asked if her husband was a Communist. The prosecution also tried to turn the court against her by referring to outside agitators and alien disturbers of the peace. Belle Martin explained to the court that both she and her husband, Jack Martin, are Georgia-born working people.

The court then asked her why she was trying to bring the WPA women workers out on strike. Mrs. Martin explained that the WPA workers in Birmingham had had two weeks without pay taken from their work-month and that this reduced their pay from \$30 a month to \$15. She told of the men on the projects who were out on a strike called by the Hod Carriers Union and explained that the Women's Auxiliary of the Union voted to bring out the women WPA workers too.

Cross Eye Convicts Negro

ATLANTA, Ga.—Convicted of theft because he had a crossed eye Albert Miller, a Negro worker was sentenced to serve from 10 to 15 years on the chain gang. Miller was charged with having robbed R. W. Durham, a white merchant. Durham claimed he was robbed and shot 3 months ago by a masked Negro bandit with a crossed eye. He claimed he recognized Miller as the robber.

Welcome to Dixie



MR. and Mrs. John Weaver have worked in the Dixie Town Cotton Mills for years. All of their children, except the smallest, also work in the mills. But their wages are so low that the total income of the family is not enough to keep hunger out of the door nor cold out of the house. The children have rickets, their little bones are bent, their little stomachs swollen. Pellagra, that dread hunger disease, has just taken the life of little Mary Weaver, 11 years old. Her body is being carried away to the hillside, in a rough pine box, to be buried.

The condition of the Weavers is no different from the thousands of other textile workers who live in Dixie Town. The textile bosses, many of them living up North, have ground down and enslaved the free people of Dixie Town, with the help of the Southern business men and sheriffs.

But the Dixie Town Chamber of Commerce isn't satisfied. They put advertisements in the newspapers inviting more Northern manufacturers to bring their mills down South. "Come to Dixie Town," they said, "We will put you up a mill and give you free rent, free taxes, free lights. We can guarantee you cheap, contented hands, who will be glad to take anything you want to give. They do

not have many unions down here, and if the organizers come around, we will chase them out of town ourselves.

"Why pay higher wages to the organized workers in the North when you can get the same work done here by unorganized hands for little or nothing?"

The Chamber of Commerce pretends that wages in the South are lower because "living costs" are lower. This is NOT true, as government statistics prove. Workers in the South spend less, BECAUSE THEY GET LESS, not because things cost less. They merely go without necessary food and clothes and live in shacks. That is why little Mary Weaver died. The Southern workers have a lower STANDARD of living, not a lower COST of living.

What we have said about Dixie Town is true of every textile town in the South. But what are the workers to do? First, organize. Build the United Textile Workers Union. Fight for the right to organize and bargain collectively. Then let us get rid of this Southern differential by fighting for a wage scale in the South which will be equal to wage scales in the North. When Northern mill owners come South, let them realize that they are coming to a part of the country where men and women will fight for their rights.

WAR VETERAN SHOOTS SELF

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Having brooded long over unemployment and starvation, John Walthers, World War veteran, shot his wife and two stepsons, then himself. Walthers and his wife are dead. The two stepsons are in a critical condition.

THUGS ATTACK FEDERATION MEMBERS

NEW ORLEANS.—Eighteen members of the Maritime Federation of the Gulf Coast have been jumped on by thugs and beaten within the past 3 weeks, according to a report made by Gilbert Mers, president of the Federation. The thug gang roams the waterfront and jumps on anybody wearing the small blue button of the Federation.

Texas Garment Workers Strike

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—Forty women and nine men, garment workers, are on strike here. They struck the factory last week, demanding higher pay, shorter hours and improved conditions.

TENN. LABOR CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

nessee anti-sedition law, the election of R. S. McCann as president as a sign of support against the reactionary attacks of the Crump machine upon the entire trade union movement in Memphis; the passage of resolutions stamping State WPA Administrator Berry as a labor hater and demanding his removal for attacks on the Workers' Alliance, and for the continuation of the WPA for as long as needed on the basis of one uniform national wage scale without sectional discrimination against the South, with trade union rates of pay for skilled and unskilled workers.

The weaknesses of the convention lay with the landslide for Roosevelt and the absence of any discussion on the formation of a Farmer-Labor Party. Led by the miners, supplemented with speeches by George Berry of the Printing Pressmen and other guests, the convention decided with almost no opposition to suspend the rules in order to render a blanket endorsement of Roosevelt.

Tampa Officer Exposes Police, Defies Klan

BARTOW, Fla.—Testifying that he did not tell the truth about what happened the night Joseph Shoemaker, unemployed leader of Tampa, was murdered, because he was afraid of losing his job, Lieutenant J. L. Eddings threw a bombshell of testimony into the court here last week.

Lieutenant Eddings was in charge of police headquarters last November 30, the night that Joseph Shoemaker, Eugene F. Poulnot and Dr. Sam Rogers were kidnapped, beaten and left dead. Shoemaker died of the injuries he received. At the time of the first investigation, following the death of Shoemaker, Eddings did not identify any of the cop-Klanmen. Now he has sworn on the witness stand that he saw Robert T. Bridges, C. A. "Smiley" Brown, C. W. Carole and Robert Campbell standing in front of the police station at the time he heard cries for help.

Booked As Communists

Shoemaker, Rogers and Poulnot were arrested at a meeting of the Modern Democrats, carried to jail, booked for "being Communists," and turned out to be seized by the cop-Klan outfit who carried them into the woods.

Eddings identified not only these members of the Tampa police force now on trial for the kidnapping of Eugene F. Poulnot, but he testified against two additional Tampa policemen who have not yet been indicted. They are Patrolmen Chiles and Wyman.

Sergeant H. C. Tompkins, who was on desk duty that night with Lieutenant Eddings, has since met his death in a way that makes the possibility he was murdered seem more plausible than that he was a suicide, as reported.

The Tampa fogging case has opened up a mire of political crimes, brutal suppression of civil rights, and the activity of police and Klan in working to break up labor organizations in Tampa by kidnappings, beatings and murder. Only the pressure of organized labor and radical and liberal groups over the country has brought the murderers of Joseph Shoemaker to trial.

Lieutenant Eddings, taking the witness stand here, carried his gun in its holster. Pat Whitaker, the Klan attorney for the Ku Klux defendants, asked why the witness was armed. Though Eddings answered "for no particular reason," he took particular pains to let it be known that he carried a gun.

Eddings' testimony agreed with that of Eugene Poulnot and made it plain that the only reason the case had been brought to light was because of the pressure of labor unions and of Communists and Socialists.

"The impression around the police station was that no one was to know about the case," Eddings said. "Things like that have always been backed up against the wall."

The Southern Worker is your paper if you believe in worker's rights and are opposed to War and the Fascist tactics used by the industrial kings of the South to keep the workers enslaved.

Subscribe to the Southern Worker and pass it on to your friends and fellow workers. With every subscription we will include a copy of the REDS IN DIXIE, the newly revised pamphlet which tells the truth about the Communists in the South.

Fill out the coupon and send it to Box 572, Birmingham, Ala., with money in stamps for your subscription.

I enclose \$ _____ for a _____ months' subscription to the Southern Worker. Please send me also a copy of REDS IN DIXIE.

Name _____

Address _____

ITALIAN TROOPS NEAR MAKALE



These infantrymen are shown marching through rough wooded country north of Makale, where fierce fighting took place. The Italian Fascists have sacrificed thousands of lives in their drive to enslave the Ethiopian people.

Ethiopians Move To Hills Above Addis Ababa

Leaving a battle-torn city, Ethiopian guerrilla fighters have taken to the hills surrounding Addis Ababa to continue their attacks on the Italian Fascist armies.

The Italian Fascists now occupy the ruined city of Addis Ababa. They moved in trucks and tanks into the city, afraid of the Ethiopians in ambush.

False reports of harm done to Americans by Ethiopians and other foreigners were circulated freely from Rome. The facts show that very few foreigners were harmed by the Ethiopians, in spite of the fact that the Ethiopian people look upon foreign ministries as agents of the Italian governments or assistants to Fascism.

Reports Exaggerated

Only one American, Mrs. A. B. Stadin, wife of a missionary, was accidentally killed when a stray bullet struck her. Other Americans reported that the attitude of the Ethiopians was friendly.

As the capital of Ethiopia was taken by the Italian Fascists, an enormous celebration took place in Rome, where Mussolini made a victory speech to the people of Italy.

Emperor Haile Selassie sailed for Palestine aboard the cruiser "Enterprise." It is expected that he will go to England later. It is also reported that he will appear before the League of Nations in Geneva to present the case of Ethiopia personally and enlist aid for his country.

NOT IN THE DICTIONARY

"After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad, the vampire, He had some awful substance left with which he made a scab. A scab is a bow-legged animal with a corkscrew soul—a water-logged brain, a combination backbone made of jelly and glue."—Jack London.

Communists and Socialists Gain in French Elections

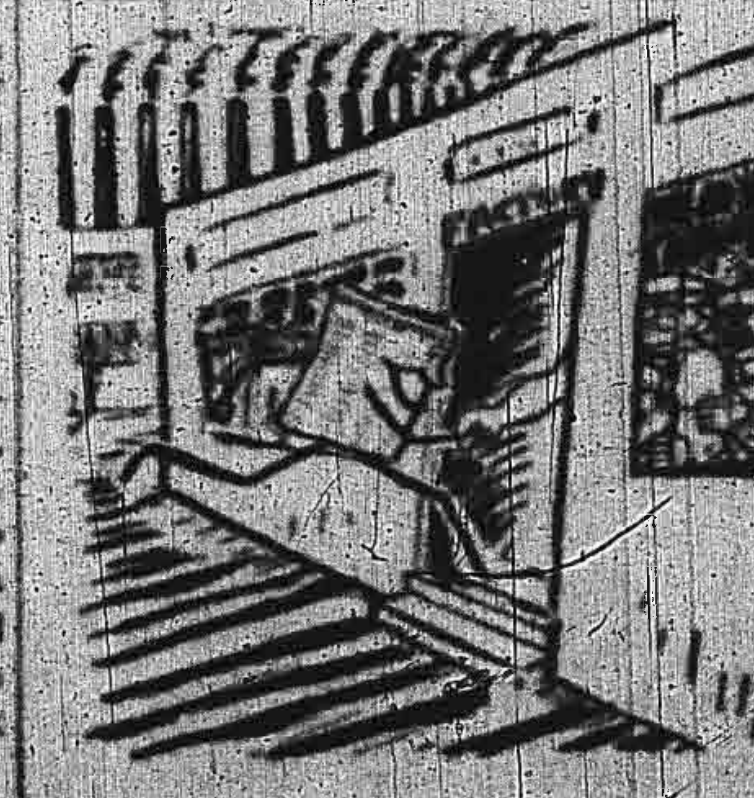
PARIS—The People's Front had a sweeping victory in the elections here. Great gains were made by both Communist and Socialist Parties. The French Communist Party now has 71 representatives in the Chamber of Deputies instead of ten.

It is predicted that the next Cabinet will be made up of Radicals and Socialists. The French Socialists will be the largest Party in the next Chamber, with 140 deputies against 97 in the last.

The reactionaries suffered great losses in the elections. Minister of War Jules Fabry and Henri Franklin-Bouillon, both bitter enemies of the People's Front and the Communist Party especially, were unseated.

The Communists gained strength in the provinces as well as in the large cities. In recent months, Communist strength in the countryside has been on a steady increase.

In the event that the next cabinet is made up of Radicals and Socialists, with a leading Radical or Socialist for president, the French Communist Party will support such a "left" government, as long as it carries out the program of the People's Front. The Communists, however, will not participate in the government.



WPA STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)

running things in Alabama, my cards are on the table and I intend to play them."

When the committee reported to the district council a strike vote was taken and passed. On Wednesday, April 15, the workers on the East Birmingham section of the Industrial Water line struck solid and 300 men walked off the Bessemer Super-Highway job. Within 48 hours nearly 5,000 PWA and WPA workers were on strike, tying up the most important projects in Jefferson and Shelby counties.

Foremen Armed

On the second day of the strike foremen were given guns and used them against the strikers. Two pickets were shot at and narrowly escaped death. Clarence Jackson of Brighton was beaten, knocked down and kicked by Milton McDuff, the PCI dick, and a gang of deputies. He was carried into Birmingham and given the third degree.

On Friday six foremen at the 10th avenue sewing room project attacked twelve women pickets with clubs and severely injured two. Mary Carter and Harriet Flood, Belle Weaver Martin was arrested and charged with unlawful assembly.

On Saturday Dave Smith, president of the Tarrant local, Paul Davis, a member, William Box, president, and Kenneth Birdenthal, secretary of the Avondale local, were arrested. The union officials were held in jail for three days for "investigation."

Sam Arnett, a county deputy attacked and brutally beat two strikers near Fairfield.

Strike Spread

In spite of police and thug terror the strike continued to spread. Double Oak mountain, Montgomery highway, Leeds and Shelby counties, every day big projects joined the strike.

Crow and Twing met with the union leaders and were forced to grant some concessions. Recognition of the Hod Carriers Union and job committees, right of work-

ROCKWOOD STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)

attempt to break the strike and smash the Hosiery Workers Union local here in Rockwood.

Hinds was arrested early in the strike and charged with felonious assault, although neither he nor any of the other strikers have been armed. He was out on bond. Hinds' house has been shot into by thugs, crusing the streets of the little mill town at night.

Young Leader Kidnapped

Two weeks ago Matt Lynch, Young Hosiery Workers organizer, was kidnapped at the mill gate by two armed men who lifted him into their car and drove to a cabin in the mountains. Lynch was threatened with death if he did not leave Rockwood. Lynch, who organized the Hosiery local in Rockwood at the beginning of the strike, has been in Rockwood nearly every day since the kidnapping.

Franz Daniels, international organizer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, was stopped by deputies when he went on the picket line at Rockwood. He was arrested and charged with assault. Among the 15 other workers arrested on the picket line during the strike were little girls of 13 and old women over 60. Mrs. Kate Dawdy, 61-year-old mother of mill workers, was arrested and thrown into jail. Ruth East, 13-year-old sister of mill workers, was also arrested on the picket line and taken to jail.

The Rockwood Hosiery Mill, which was closed down for one week at the beginning of the strike, reopened with school children under 14 working ten hours. Most of these children have never before worked in the mill. The owners of the Hosiery Mill also own the Rockwood Foundry. Several foundry workers were fired for refusing to serve as scabs at the hosiery mill.

Tennessee Labor Aroused

Organized labor in Tennessee has shown its sympathy and support of the Rockwood strikers by raising money and collecting food-

ers fired to a hearing, firing of unjust foremen, two weeks cut in April reduced to one week. The agreement was approved by a mass meeting of the strikers and the district council. On April 27 the strike ended.

The basic demands were not won but lack of money to carry on the strike, and insufficient organization made it impossible to hold out for all the demands.

The lies that the workers have been fed by the bosses about the Communist Party were answered on the picket lines and in the union halls. The workers saw that the reds are the best union builders, have common sense and guts.

We have seen the power of unity. We must go forward and build militant unions, elect militant job committees on every project to protect our rights and to prepare for a bigger struggle ahead. We must wipe out the vicious Southern differential on the WPA that means we get half the pay for the same work as the northern workers get. Our slogan must be equal pay for equal work, north and south.

Cotton Kings Urge Longer Hours, Low Pay

PINEHURST, N. C.—The American Cotton Manufacturers Association, in convention at Pinehurst, urged Southern mills to stick to the minimum wage law and the maximum hour standard, and went on record in opposition to the Ellenbogen bill, which calls for government regulation of the textile industry.

A report by the National Industrial Conference and the Cotton Kings that a reduction in the number of hours in the textile work week would speed the pace.

Donald Comer, Birmingham, Ala. magistrate, was elected president and John H. Chatham of Griffin, Georgia, another of the textile industry's scab kings, was elected second vice president.

WHO PAYS THE SALES TAX?

It has been estimated that if the sales tax is established at the rate of 2 percent, it takes over \$5.48 a year from the \$300 income of the worker.

According to an estimate by "Business Week," the burden of a sales tax that includes food is 60 times heavier on each dollar of the workers' wages than on each dollar of the manufacturer's income. (Source: "High Cost of Living," by Martha Thomas.)

To help them, Representatives from other union locals have come to Rockwood to help organize and picket. A series of Sunday mass meetings were held in the front yard of Jim Hinds' house. From Chattanooga, Knoxville and Nashville, truckloads of strike sympathizers came to these meetings.

At the convention of the State Federation of Labor, held at Chattanooga this week, a motion was made to adjourn the convention and go to Rockwood to picket the hosiery mill. The plan was set aside because of the amount of work before the convention. A telegram was sent to Governor McAllister requesting that a reward be posted for the arrest and conviction of the men who kidnapped Matt Lynch. The governor's reply was that there was no need to post a reward if Lynch could identify the men and they were available. Repeated threats that they were going to "get Matt Lynch" have been circulated by the thugs.

The dynamiting charge was characterized by George Googe, Southern representative of the American Federation of Labor, as the work of a "labor-baiting detective agency."

A vigilante committee has been formed here and is under the leadership of Captain R. H. Thompson, former state commander of the American Legion. Its activities began with a meeting at the city hall where a drive to whip up feeling against the strikers was begun. Franz Daniels and other labor leaders who have helped to organize the hosiery workers were denounced by the vigilantes as a "pack of reds."

Relief Jobs Handled By Fla. Politicians

(By a Florida Correspondent)
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—Relief wages here are very low. A man practically has to have a college degree to get \$50 a month. The unskilled (which usually means the hardest and dirtiest work) get \$4 a week and even these relief jobs are doled out on a "bigger plan" dividing the work among as many as possible. At the present city administration will control the greatest amount of votes.

I applied for a job as waitress in the Argenden Hotel, one of the better ones here. For \$15 a month plus the girls work seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and about three hours off during the day.

I went walking in the woods and met a Negro with a rabbit. He told me that the rabbit would be the first of food his family will have in two days.

A Blind Negro.
 On a bridge a white man was talking with his rod sprawled all over the walk. A blind Negro, led by a little boy, came tapping. The white man never moved an inch. The old blind man was led off the walk into the road where the cars whirled by within an inch of him.

Don't think the poor whites are any better off—Deep in the woods we came across a shack made of palmetto leaves with tin spots on the roof to keep out the rain. A man, a woman and two children were there, all sleeping on one bed. The shack has no windows, no floor, no light of any kind, no furniture. The woman trudges to town every day and brings back the contents of fruit store garbage cans, and they keep alive on it. The man is a Canadian war veteran but is too badly hurt to be considered an "employable," so they are not eligible for relief. The two children are of school age but have never been to school.

There is a law in Florida against advocating Communism. I have been told an expert has been sent in to investigate Communism in Daytona. They are not frightened without good cause. It is true that the workers down here are ready for organization. They have about reached the point where they have nothing to lose but their chains and all the terror in the world will not keep them from organized action. They are afraid of the word Communism, but when you talk unionism or independent labor action, they're all for you.

UNION LEADER MURDERED

ROME, Ga.—Emmett Parks, molder union leader, died of wounds received when he was shot by Larry Lester, foreman of the molding room of the Southern Co-operative Foundry and son of the president of the foundry. Lester is being held for the murder of Parks.

Missing Cropper Thought Slain By Landlords

WAVERLY, Ala.—Fab Caldwell, a Negro sharecropper in Tallapoosa county, Ala., has been missing two weeks following his report to an AAA investigator that his landlord, Woodson Walker, had not given him his parity check from the AAA. Walker threatened to kill him and throw his body in Martin's Lake. It is very likely that Caldwell was grabbed up by a small group of landlords and deputies at night and carried off. Howard Gray, another Waverly landlord reported for withholding parity checks, has offered \$100 reward to find out who turned him in to be investigated. He threatens to put that person in Martin's Lake.

The investigation was demanded by the Share Croppers Union after it found out that many of the checks due the sharecroppers and tenants. The union urges all workers and farmers to wire and send letters to Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace, demanding that he have this situation investigated and take action against Woodson Walker to find out what has happened to Fab Caldwell. Similar letters should be sent to Governor Graves at Montgomery, Ala., and to Cliff Corprew, Sheriff at Dadeville, Ala.

"Reds In Dixie" Reprinted at Workers Request

Because of hundreds of requests from Southern workers who want to know more about the Communist Party in the South, Tom Johnson's popular pamphlet, "The Reds In Dixie," has been revised and can now be obtained.

"Reds In Dixie" tells the story of the Communists in the South—of their position in the trade unions, of their militant fight for every right of workers. It discusses the next steps to be taken in the Southern states and reviews the past.

In another part of the paper is a blank to be filled out and sent with 5 cents in stamps to Box 572, Birmingham. This will bring you a copy of "Reds In Dixie." Pass copies of it around. Learn the truth about the Communists.



Birmingham I.L.D. Leader Railroaded On Traffic Charge

BIRMINGHAM.—Given a sentence of 180 days and \$100 fine for driving with defective brakes, Robert Washington, Negro I.L.D. leader, faces a 10-months chain-gang sentence here. Washington was arrested for the traffic charge, then recognized as an I.L.D. leader. In the city jail he was approached by Milton McDuff and offered easy money if he would be of use to him. When Washington refused, McDuff told the warden to "keep that damn nigger till the jail rots."

Washington is out on bond pending an appeal of his case.

Negro Union Brother Taken For A "Ride"

BESSMER, Ala.—Two unidentified white men went into the home of George Brown, a Negro union man, about 12 o'clock Thursday night. They lifted him from bed and carried him about 27 miles into Tuscaloosa county. Brown was carried off in a car which contained two other men in addition to the ones who lifted him from bed. They stopped the car at a little place called Gofect, pulled Brown from the car, and beat him until he was unconscious.

At daylight Brown managed to crawl about a mile down the road from where they left him. Then strangers in a car gave him a lift to his home.

The vigilantes told Brown they were not going to kill him, but they wanted to give him a "God-damn good beating."

Brown's wife was informed that his union activity was responsible for the beating given her husband. George Brown is now in a serious condition as the result of his treatment. He was working on the McDoodle construction project near here.

Lewis Greet Delegation of Share Croppers

WASHINGTON (UNS)—"Your power is in direct proportion to your strength," John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers and chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, told delegates from the Sharecroppers Union and the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, when they were in Washington recently.

In addition to the Sharecroppers Union and the Southern Tenant Farmers, the delegation included representatives from AF of L unions of beet, fruit and vegetable workers in several states.

FARM NEWS

By JERRY COLEMAN

THE Washington conference between representatives of sharecropper and agricultural workers unions and government officials, arranged by the Committee on Rural Social Planning, proved one thing to all delegates: the government will only act on our problems when the unions force them to.

Secretary Wallace opened the conference in the Department of Agriculture building. He didn't offer any immediate aid to the agricultural workers and sharecroppers. He said they would have to wait until things were better for the big farmers. He remarked that the situation was a little loaded with dynamite and he was right. People don't starve peacefully.

One after another the 23 delegates told their stories of misery, privation and of terror against their unions. The representatives of the government didn't offer either aid or protection of union men against lynch mobs and terror.

Sharecroppers Broadcast

At the closing session four union men spoke over the Columbia Broadcasting System to the people of the nation. Harry Williams, Negro president of the Sharecroppers Union, and Howard Kester, white organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, each spoke for 5 minutes. In that brief time they gave a very clear picture of the conditions under which we live, and what the unions are seeking.

After the conference the delegates were invited to talk with Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, who said the Federation was interested in our problems and would aid where it thought it could do good. The same day the delegates visited John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America and chairman of the Committee on Industrial Organization, who praised the work of the unions and promised to aid where possible.

Although nothing of immediate benefit was accomplished, we did succeed in gaining more support for the unions and brought the problems of the poorest people on the farms to the attention of the nation. The delegates were convinced that stronger organization was the only answer.

All of the delegates signed a letter of appreciation to Gardner Jackson, chairman of the National

Committee on Rural Social Planning, who worked the hardest to make the conference possible and whose interest in the problems facing the unions has made him one of our treasured friends.

SECRETARY Wallace has decided to force the farmers into the 1936 AAA program. Before a farmer receives his money for the 1935 cotton price adjustment, he has to sign an "Application for Cotton Price Adjustment Payment and Agreement to Cooperate in the 1936 Cotton Adjustment Program," Form No. C. A. P. 1. In this application it says: "Each person who receives his pro rata share of such payment for last year will be required to agree to participate in said program for 1936."

The poor croppers, tenants and small farmers need this money very much at this particular time. The government had promised it to us in January, then in February and now they are using it as a club to force us into a program of slavery. Every farmer must write to Secretary Wallace and demand that the farmers get their price adjustment money for last year right away and WITHOUT ANY STRINGS TIED TO IT.

Sharecroppers Ask for Charters in Farmers Union

SIMMSPORT, La.—The first steps toward uniting the Share Croppers Union with the Farmers Union were taken in Louisiana where the members of the SCU are applying for charters in the other organization.

More than 1,000 members in 12 locals are making the change. This follows upon the decision of the Share Croppers Union to work for unity with the Farmers Union in an effort to build one strong union among the white and Negro farmers of the south. There was not an organization of the Farmers Union in this state so the SCU is making the change direct.

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 Write to Box 572
 Birmingham, Ala.

"THE REDS IN DIXIE"

Who Are The Communists, and What Do They Fight For In the South?

By Tom Johnson.

Send for the revised edition of this popular pamphlet which tells the true story of the Communists in the South.

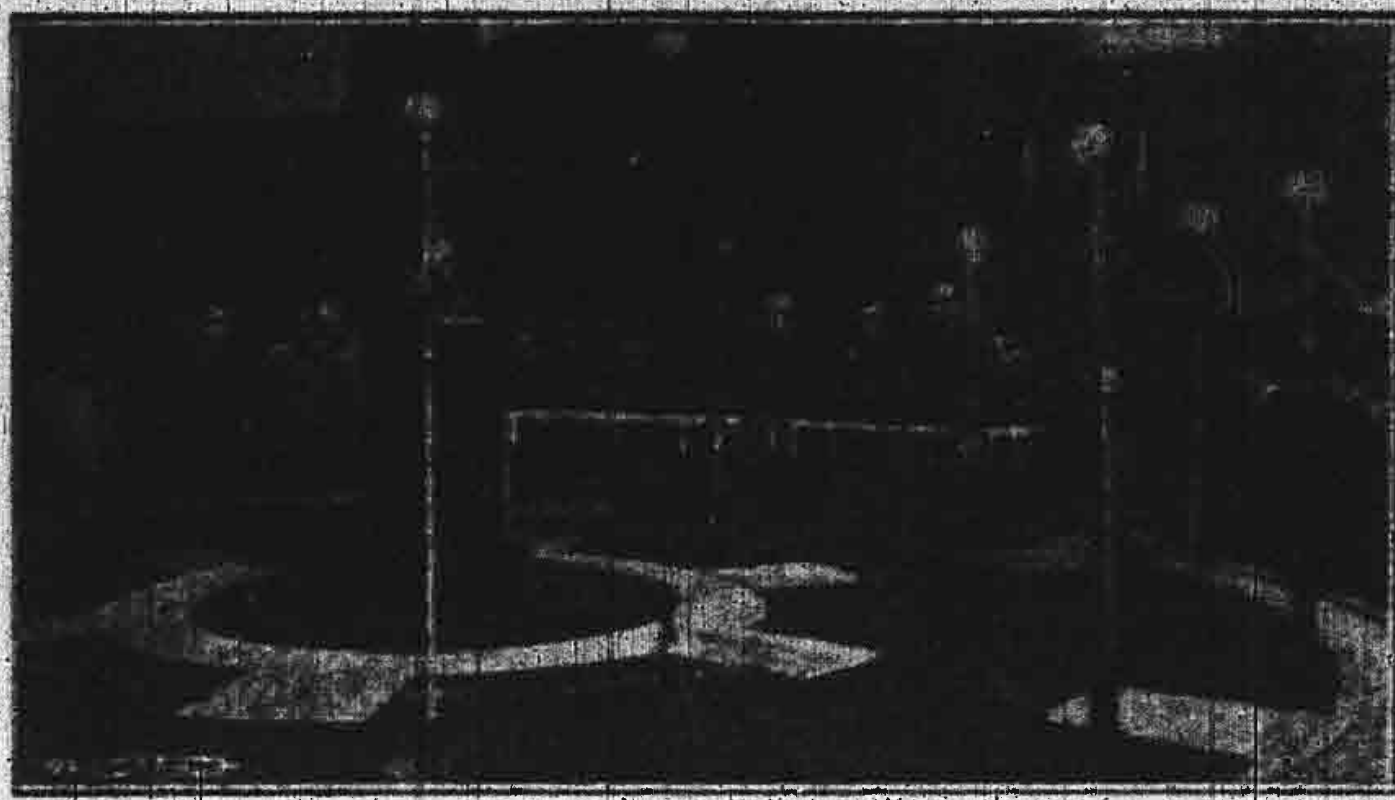
Clip the coupon below and send it with 5 cents in stamps to BOX 572, BIRMINGHAM.

Send me _____ copies of "REDS IN DIXIE." I enclose 5 cents for each pamphlet to cover cost of mailing.

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MODERN EDUCATION—SOVIET STYLE



Seeing is believing—and learning—say Soviet education leaders, so they installed a miniature trolley line at the new Palace of Pioneers in Kharkov. Note the children's rapt attention as their teacher explains the principles of electricity and locomotion.

American Writer Finds New World Where Oil Kings Once Reigned

By SENDERGARLIN.

BAKU, U. S. S. R.—From this city, situated in the southeastern part of European U. S. S. R., you can almost fly a kite into Persia or Turkey. Of all the cities of the Soviet Union, it was among the last to free itself from medieval bondage.

In old Baku, when rain drenched the city and made its streets an ugly mudpath, workers, like Chinese "coolies," carried the rich on their bedded backs.

Woman Doubly Enslaved

The proletarian woman was doubly enslaved: to the capitalist master and to her father, husband or brother. For a woman to be seen on the streets without her black veil often meant death.

This was the land of glistening oil, ancient customs, poverty, ignorance, terror. The Deterdings, and the Rothschilds, international capitalists, who pounced on the rich oil fields of Baku, lived far from the foul, disease-ridden city that was old Baku.

But this is all of the past. And when workers talk about it now (less than 20 years after) they have triumphant smiles on their faces.

Tells of Reconstruction

Efn Rodionov, the old oil worker who is now chairman of the Baku Soviet, answered my questions. "For years," he began, "this city was one of the most picturesque objects of exploitation by the bankers and oil owners in all of old Russia. It was an exceptionally unsanitary, filthy small town. But during the sixteen years of Soviet power here—the Bolsheviks finally rid the city of all its enemies in 1920—tremendous changes have taken place."

One single fact about housing will give you an idea of the scope of rebuilding the city. During the past 11 years more than 30 percent of the residents of Baku have moved into new homes!

Great New Reservoir

"Take the question of water," the Soviet official explained. "In former years the Baku people were always sick with stomach trouble because the water supply was putrid. The Baku Soviet took steps to improve the situation at once. It is now completing a magnificent new reservoir which will supply the 700,000 people of the city with fresh, healthful water. Before the revolution only 10

percent of the entire population could read or write. Now only about 20,000, mostly among the older folk in the rural districts, are still unable to read or write. At the present time 110,000 children study in the Baku schools, whereas before the Revolution only 25,000 attended. Fifteen universities stand in Baku today where none stood before.

I asked about hospitals and was told that whereas there were no hospitals for workers under the rule of the Tsars and foreign capitalists, today there are 15 in Baku alone, and the health budget has been raised from 13 million rubles in 1921 to 44 millions in 1935.

Facts To Know

Each white pupil enrolled in the public elementary and secondary schools of 15 southern states attended school for an average of 133 days during the year 1932.

Each Negro pupil, however, attended school for an average of only 103 days, or only 76 percent as many as the white pupil. This discrimination practiced by the white ruling class against Negro children, expressing itself in this instance in the providing of shorter school years, is common throughout all 15 states, as the following figures show:

State	Average Number of Days	
	White	Negro
Delaware	162	153
Maryland	165	157
Dist. of Col.	147	146
Virginia	144	128
N. Carolina	137	114
S. Carolina	137	86
Georgia	114	90
Florida	135	130
Tennessee	126	121
Alabama	124	101
Mississippi	122	74
Arkansas	112	81
Louisiana	147	97
Oklahoma	126	120
Texas	134	104

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Fascism Came To Miners of Harlan, Ky.

(By a Mine Worker Correspondent)

MIDDLESBORO, Ky.—I have been asked the question by many people, how the gun thugs in Harlan county managed to get the miners in the state of submissiveness they seem to be in. And how they keep them from organizing into the United Mine Workers.

Being one who went through the struggles of 1931-1932, I want to tell people about this. To begin with, in 1931 the officials of the UMWA called a convention in Pineville, knowing the miners were ready to organize. They told them to go back to their respective mines and begin to agitate and organize, which the miners did. So in a short time the operators began firing by the wholesale everyone who joined the union.

A group of miners went to Pineville to confer with the union officials. The International representative, Lawrence Dwyer, told them to strike till hell freezes over.

Called Other Workers

Then the miners began calling on their fellow workers to strike with them. There was mass marches and picketing. From 12 to 15 thousand were on strike. This is no doubt the most militant strike ever witnessed in Kentucky.

Then the operators, through John Henry Blair, sheriff, began hiring all kinds of gunmen and killers and filling the union with spies.

Then the thugs began trying to terrorize the miners by trying to break up their picket lines and threatening to break up their mass meetings. On one occasion at Ewarto, the thugs attacked a group of miners sitting on the road and shot and wounded Bill Burnette. Burnette returned the fire and Jess Pace got killed.

The Ewarto Battle

It was only a few days later that the Ewarto battle took place where one miner and three thugs were killed.

The operators were trying to get the troops. Governor Simpson pretended to be a liberal and was afraid to send in troops at first.

Well, the operators got their troops in all right, and after the troops got their artillery set up, instead of disarming the thugs, like they were supposed to be going to, the thugs disarmed the miners, telling them to go to work or get the hell out. Four thousand were blacklisted. Every militant miner who didn't leave as soon as he could would be killed or took for a ride and beat half to death, and if an investigation is made the miners are forced to say they like conditions and don't want any union.

So when you talk about Fascism to some people they say it can't happen here, but it did happen in Harlan county and if workers and farmers and small business men don't organize in a strong united front and into a Farmer-Labor party of their own to break down this Fascist terror wherever it raises its head, it will happen in all America.

ONE OF OURS

By MYRA PAGE

The South grows many things besides cotton. It has brought forth men and women, upright and strong, who work and spin that cotton, mine its coal and make its steel. These people know how to sing and mean it, and how to stand together for what they know to be right.

Among them is Dolly Bristow. Dolly is nearing fifty but her wit and spirit are lively as a young girl's, and better reasoned. For Dolly has seen and gone through much in her time and her eyes show it. Her hands and body are marked by toil. But zest in living and human kindness keep a sparkle in her glance which can flash out sharp when some wrong has been done. She has been a scrapper ever since a little mite, and in these last years she has found a good cause for which to scrap.

Dolly grew up in the Cumberland mountains—maybe her pipe-smoking dates from those days. Her Dad was a miner, and his girl learned early the power in union. She tells how a new miner coming into their valley had to show himself a good union man before any of the girls would go with him. "If he'll scab on the union," the girls said, "he'll sure scab on his wife."

Raising Cotton

Dolly took the union spirit with her when she moved down into eastern Arkansas and went to raising cotton with her husband. She had thought farming would be easier than life in a mining camp, but soon found working on shares for the planter was a thankless job. At that time there was no union in Arkansas cotton country.

Dolly's man didn't last long, and she had lost her only child. In such times, many give up heart, but not Dolly. She turned her thoughts away from her own troubles to those around her. And when the union did come, she was among the first to join. This was the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, which was

grown in the last two years from a handful of pioneers in eastern Arkansas into a powerful organization of 30,000 members, white, colored, Mexican and Indian, in six Southern states.

Dolly set out spreading leaflets and carrying the union word from one plantation to the next. When the planters' terror grew too bad she found other ways of getting the word out. But it got there.

At present Dolly is studying at Commonwealth college, a southern labor school near Mená, Arkansas. Her union sent her here so she can learn more about organizing and come back to lead her people. There are forty other students, many of them from the South—Kentucky miners, a Virginia office worker, a Florida citrus grower, seven Arkansas sharecroppers, a Texas rancher, an Alabama steel worker, a Carolina mill girl, and many more from the north and middle west.

Dolly's Song

Soon Dolly will return to the Arkansas cotton country and begin carrying the word. The song she sings is the same that I first heard from members of the Alabama Sharecroppers' Union, also the hymn of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, a song that is travelling with its union message throughout the south:

The Union is a marching
We shall not be moved.
The landlord is a crying
We shall not be moved.
Just like a tree planted by the water
We shall not be moved!

NOTE—Commonwealth College is a school for workers. Its courses are designed to teach working men and women to be leaders in their unions and communities. Any worker wishing to find out more about this school and its classes should write to Commonwealth College, Mená, Arkansas.

C. P. Leader Framed On Vagrancy Charge

BIRMINGHAM—Carrying out Police Chief Hollom's order to pin anything possible on known Communists, Birmingham police last week arrested Jack Barton, Section Organizer of the Communist Party. Barton was first held for investigation, then charged with vagrancy. He was threatened by detectives who told him that soon he would be "given a ride that was not to the city hall."

Police boasted that they had standing orders to pick up Jack Barton.

With Barton at the time of his arrest was Jack Perilla, an out-of-town visitor to Birmingham. Perilla was later trailed to his hotel and arrested. He was held for investigation and then released.

Barton is out of jail on bond, pending trial in Judge Abernathy's court.

'Chapayev' Shown in Chattanooga. CHATTANOOGA—Chapayev, famous Soviet film of the revolution is to be shown at the Memorial auditorium here, May 17.

Farmers Get Less as Prices Of Bread And Flour Rise

WASHINGTON, (FP)—Slices cut from the consumers' bread by the middlemen have increased, Farm Research, Inc. declares in its May bulletin, Facts for Farmers. For every dollar spent by the consumer for bread in 1919, the farmer got 35 cents. In 1935, out of every dollar spent for bread by the consumer, only 17 cents went to the farmer.

According to the Department of Agriculture, every dollar spent for flour by the consumer in 1919 gave the farmer 70 cents, but only 30 cents in 1935. Bakers and middlemen increased their slice on bread 15 cents and on flour 40 cents out of every dollar.

SHOE WORKERS SETTLE STRIKE

COOKESVILLE, Tenn.—Striking employees of the Menzies Shoe Company have returned to work after having agreed to a 5 percent wage cut for 60 days. The workers walked out when a 10 percent wage cut was handed them.

Resistance to Eastman's R. R. Program

By George Brown

Throughout the country over 5,000 terminals have been singled out for attack by railroad bankers and the government. Some 150,000 railroad jobs are to be whittled away through a gigantic pooling of the resources and properties of the 140 Class I railroads of the country and the various switching companies and auxiliaries attached to these roads.

Up to a quarter of a million jobs hang in the balance before the roads complete this monstrous scheme. At no time in the history of big business has such a pooling of facilities with ownership remaining in separate systems been attempted.

It is as if all the steel interests or the packing and slaughter houses or the auto manufacturers would agree to maintain their individual makes or products, but manufacture them in one or two gigantic plants and pocket the profits to be made by running the whole works with 25% fewer employes.

Railroad labor had been led to believe that such concentration of industrial facilities and properties is inevitable under the profit system. They have been told that the best possible bargain that could be made would be to gain an agreement or a law which would compensate those displaced through mergers, abandonment of trackage or consolidation of facilities. The amount of compensation would depend on a reasonable bargain between the two contending parties, railroad labor and railroad management. The government would umpire the game. We know that the kind of bargain labor gets depends on its ability to mobilize its strike power.

The basis for the present plight of railroad labor was laid in the Transportation Act of 1920, which set aside the Sherman anti-trust law and allowed railroads to merge properties. To reshape the inverted pyramids of railroad finance as they had been built up by the Morgans, the Vanderbilts, the Harrimans and the Van Sweringens in such a way that these same controlling interests would keep all the cream, was no small task. By 1933 when the banks were crashing and traffic dropped to new lows, railroad investors, largely banking and insurance interests, got panicky. They devised a scheme for increasing profits without having to actually acquire or shuffle bonds and properties. The scheme was to chieftain railroad labor instead, thru joint operation of existing facilities and scrapping stops, tracks and trains wherever possible.

The full fruits of this plan are just being borne in the 5,000 terminal consolidation projects made by railroad coordinator Eastman. To effectively curb resistance of railroad labor when the plan goes into effect some agreement or law was essential. As soon as these plans were made public lodges and joint meetings of lodges went on record against loss of jobs also.

wage bill is the stayer of the administration and the labor leadership to this perplexing question. Railroad strike power is still a determining factor in any attempt to fasten new rules or working conditions on the men. A federal law to which railroad labor is officially a party and which recognizes the right of the roads to consolidate at will, with a sop given the men laid off, would, it was thought, stop independent local action when the ax began to fall.

The way of the Wheeler-Crosser bill is not however a bed of roses. From all over the country organized railroad labor has raised its voice in protest, demanding jobs not a dime, for the one year's dismissal wage provisions of the bill can hardly be considered the equivalent of a steady wage until retirement at 65. And railroad men see no guarantee in any of the other provisions of the bill for more than this.

Organized railroad labor, an increasing numbers, is demanding an amendment to the Wheeler-Crosser Bill to strike out all reference to a dismissal wage, retaining only those features which state that it is the responsibility of the government to provide security of employment in the railroad industry or comparable employment where jobs are abolished.

On May Day, historically dedicated to the fight for shorter hours and with the hard facts of 800,000 unemployed railroaders facing them, organized railroad labor is also demanding the six hour day as an immediate necessity in the industry.

Nor have the lodges forgotten their former union brothers. In thousands of cases they have gone on record for the Frazier-Lundeen bill for adequate unemployment insurance to be financed from tax on wealth.

The final word on the question of job protection in the railroad industry rests with labor. Effective resistance is possible, particularly in an industry where half a million men belong to well functioning unions.

In every instance during the past half century where the roads goaded the men too far they have been answered with a strike ballot and in many cases with strikes. Only a few months ago a strike threat brought the Burlington railroad to agree to man its cross country Diesel engines with two men against their decision to reduce cab operation to one man.

Twenty years ago threat of a national strike won railroad men a federal eight hour day law. In the last analysis the struggle will be fought at the terminals where the temper of organized labor is against adding to the number of the unemployed and skilled workmen have no stomach for ditch-digging to increase profits for the Morgans and Vanderbilts.

Fight Against Reaction in the South! Build a Farmer-Labor Party.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WEST POINT, Miss.—The Chamber of Commerce got the town of West Point to spend \$75,000 of the public's money building a garment plant in order to bring the Knickerbocker Manufacturing Company here. At the plant, according to Chamber of Commerce figures, full-time workers are getting only \$10.86. Most of the workers are employed only part time and make much less.

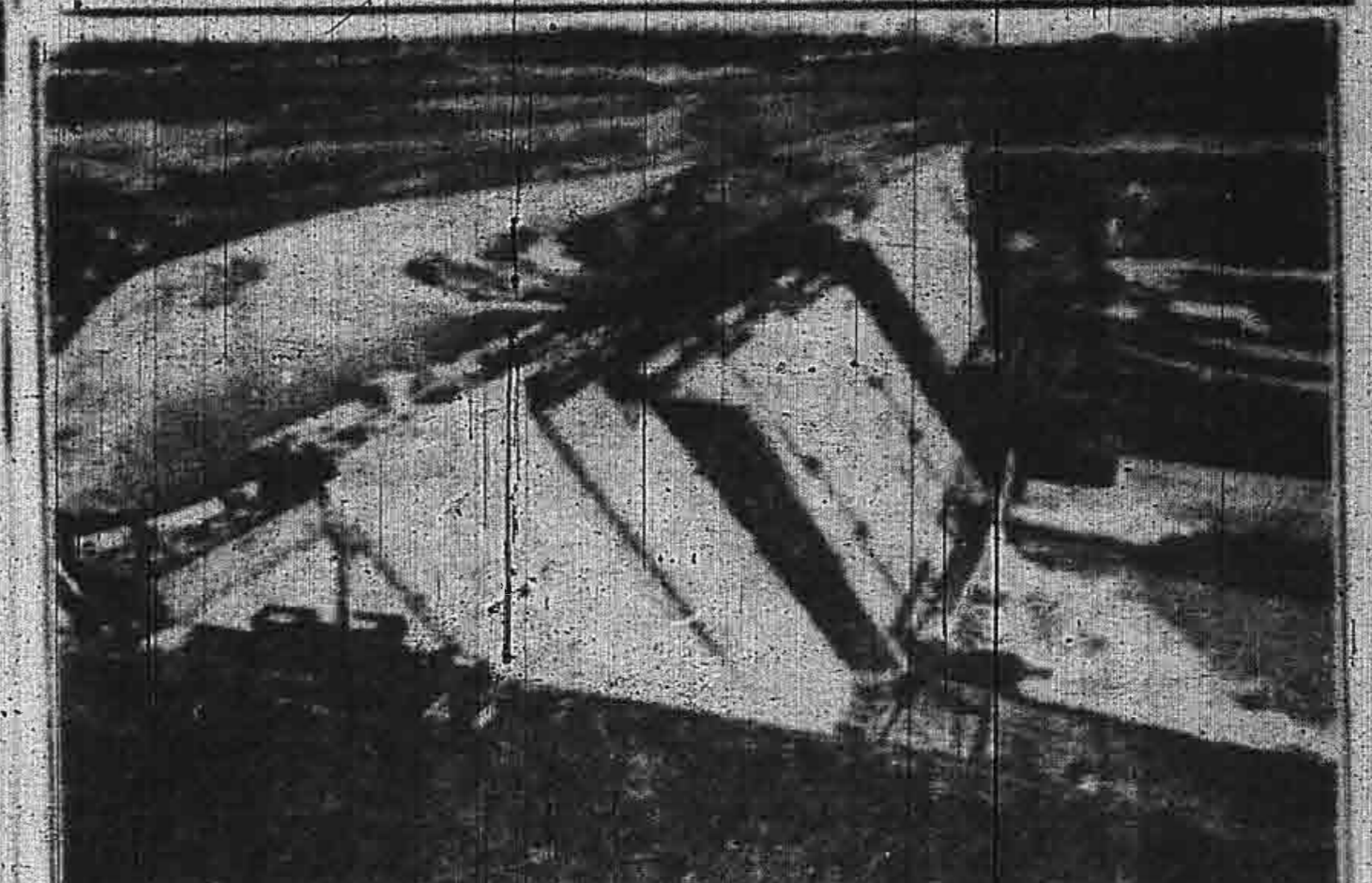
BIRMINGHAM.—The Ku Klux Klan stood in full-voiced regalia on the street corners of Birmingham one day last month and handed out Klan leaflets. They had permission from Chief of Police Luther Holloman, the cop who recently told a Hearst reporter that he favors stringent laws with death penalty or long prison terms for Communists.

ROME, Ga.—Twenty-four charges, five for murder, put against the striking workmen of the Rome Stove and Range Company last September were nolle prossed by Solicitor General James Fred Kelley. Kelley said he was glad the cases were dropped because of the unfavorable publicity to Rome. All of the cases were part of the police terror used against the Stove workers who went out on strike.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Dwight Manufacturing Company, of Gadsden, was ordered to Federal District Court here to answer for not heeding a subpoena to produce its payroll. The complaint was filed by the National Labor Relations Board, before which the Dwight Company was ordered to testify in connection with an election in the plant. The election was to determine whether the United Textile Workers or the company union should represent the workers at the Dwight Company.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Specific instructions to advocate industrial unionism in mass-production industries were given by TVA lodge 136 of the American Federation of Government Employees, in electing its delegates to the Tennessee State Federation of Labor convention.

RULING MADE ON SUCH A DAM



View of one of the dams being constructed under the Tennessee Valley Authority. It is on the construction of such dams that the Supreme Court recently ruled.

Children of Pioneers Starving in Texas While Forefathers Honored

(By a Texas Correspondent)
AUSTIN, Tex. At the same time the bankers and merchants of Texas will be celebrating the State Centennial, the descendants of the pioneers who built Texas will be receiving their first W.P.A. checks and wondering how long they can make the last peek of potatoes last out. After July 1, every project in Texas will have closed, and the unemployed will be forced to live from the breakings of high-jacking Community Chests and local relief boards.

I know the relief worker in this town, a good man whose grandfather fought at San Jacinto—the battle which established the Republic of Texas. The grandfather is mentioned in every Texas history, and his career is known to every informed person within the state. But the grandson is living in a trailer on the banks of the Colorado river, breaking rock for the WPA for the magnificent salary of \$33 per month. Last year his wife died of pellagra brought on because local relief authorities did not furnish her enough food. The grandfather will be remembered at the Centennial. The grandson will be sitting down to bread and molasses or maybe less.

\$300 For Thousands
Austin, the capital city of the state, has appropriated only \$300 per month to take care of several thousand unemployed—a number that is constantly increased by the forced migration of sharecroppers who have been evicted from farms

LYNCHINGS

(Continued from Page 1)
When he was returned to Royston, near Danielsville, to stand trial, a mob of 40 men took him from the jail while W. A. Dickerson, night chief of police, made no effort to protect Shaw. His body was found hanged to a tree and riddled with a hundred bullets.
Willie Kees was also arrested for attempted assault of a white woman. There was no evidence against him. He had been freed of the charge, when a mob of 10 men went to the jail. Marshal Jay May handed over Kees to them, then stated that he could not identify any member of the lynch band. The body of Willie Kees was found two hours later. His wrists were wired behind his back and there were bullet holes in his body. An "inquest" was followed by a report that Kees met his death from "gunshot wounds at the hands of parties unknown."
The third lynch murder was carried out by a mob of 200 who lifted John Ruskin out of the Pavo, Georgia, jail, where he was held for the killing of Marion Pate, a white man. Deputy Sheriff Kennedy, like the other prison officials, let the mob take his prisoner and then said he could not identify any of the murderers of Ruskin.



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Organizing Dixie

THE slogan, "Organize the Unorganized in the South," is not much good unless it is put into action. This month we can announce that in two fields of Southern industry, the labor movement is actually taking steps to put that slogan into life. First, the American Federation of Hosiery Workers in convention at Philadelphia voted to finance 14 field organizers in the south. It will be their job to bring the unorganized and underpaid hosiery workers into the union. Second, at the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers, convention in Cannonsburg, Pa., a strong fight is being waged by progressive elements for a drive to organize the steel workers. Since one of the weakest sectors in the Southern labor front is the absence of organization among the steel workers, this is of great importance.

This action is important, however, not only for the South, but also for the North. Unorganized industry and low wage scales in the South are a menace to labor in the North. These organizational drives are important because they will strengthen the entire Southern labor movement. They will be the means of winning better conditions, higher wages, and they will help fight back the growing fascist power of mill owners, mine operators, etc., who beat, slug and jail workers, and who deny our people the right to organize. But this is just the beginning. We must organize the textile workers, the sawmill and lumber workers, and those millions of dispossessed, the share croppers and farm workers.

Lynchings Are Fascism

WITHIN a week three Negroes have been lynched in the South, two in Georgia, and one in Arkansas. Lint Shaw and Willie Kees were accused of "attempting to attack" white women. John Ruskin was charged with theft and the killing of a white man. No one of them was found guilty. No one of them was protected by prison officials from the brutal mob which took them out and lynched them.

Lynchings are part of Fascism. Fascism, in all its filth and brutality, is growing in the South. Fascism is the last rotten stand of the industrial magnates—the T. C. I. in Alabama, the "Grass Roots" gang in Georgia.

This charge of "attempting to attack" a white woman is just one part of the whole big frame-up of Southern workers, by the mill, mine and big farm owners. It is an attempt to split the ranks of the workers, to break down their organization, to shrink their wages and lengthen their work-day. The capitalists know that the first step is to divide the working class. If they can do that the rest is easy. It is up to the white and Negro workers to increase and strengthen their unity, to shake their fist in the face of reaction and smash lynch terror.

Demand an investigation and prosecution of the lynchers of Shaw, Kees and Ruskin! Fight for a real federal anti-lynch law which will prosecute these murderers!

Three States

THE Federations of Labor in three Southern states meeting recently have gone on record endorsing industrial unionism. All three, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee, took a more progressive position on the problems confronting the working people than ever before.

But these state federation conventions all made one serious mistake—they gave a blanket endorsement of Franklin D. Roosevelt for the presidency. This was done because the delegates were persuaded that this was the only way Labor could prevent the fascists and the Liberty Leaguers from taking power. It is good that the delegates realized so clearly the danger of the Liberty League, seeing that this group of fascist minded millionaires intend not only to cut relief, slash wages, raise taxes on the common people, but also to take from Labor the last vestige of their civil liberties including the right to organize. It is certainly true that these forces must be defeated.

But the election of Roosevelt with a blanket endorsement by Labor will not defeat these fascists. President Roosevelt does not offer any real opposition to their plans and in the past has surrendered to their fascist demands against the living standards of the people. In his desire to compromise, he will sell our birthright.

The real answer to this fascist danger is the formation of a Farmer-Labor Party, a step which these conventions did not take. Such a party electing workers and farmers to congress and to the legislatures can mobilize the people against fascism. This is the road to the defeat of the Liberty Leaguers.

WORKERS' LEADER



Eugene V. Debs

ON May 1 the workers of the whole world demonstrate their united strength and honor the militant men who died in the ranks of the fight for working class freedom. In America Eugene V. Debs is one of the foremost heroes of labor.

Debs was the kind of American who not only believed that the workers should have rights, but who fought to get those rights for them. Forty years ago he advocated industrial unionism, as opposed to narrow craft unionism. When he helped form the American Railway Union in 1893, he helped bring industrial unionism into the American labor movement.

Debs spent a good part of his life in jail. He went there proudly, carrying with him his faith in the workers. He said, "I would a thousand times rather be a free citizen in jail than a coward on the streets."

He first went to jail during the Pullman strike in 1895. The strike was broken by federal troops sent in by President Cleveland. Debs was framed, just as the strike leaders of the South today are framed and railroaded to jail.

EUGENE Debs believed that the workers should take political action. In 1920, while in jail, for treason because he exposed the war-makers and fought for peace, the Socialist workers ran his name on the ballot and he polled 20,000 votes.

To the workers of the South, the mine, mill and railroad workers, the message of Gene Debs is to ORGANIZE INTO INDUSTRIAL UNIONS. Forty years ago he said that the craft unions were backward and were used to serve the employers of labor by keeping the ranks of workers split.

To the common people of the South, where the munitions for the next war are now being manufactured, Gene Debs has left the memory of a leader who did not flinch when the war makers closed their fists about him.

The history of American labor is red with the blood of men like Debs. Not outsiders. Not aliens, but American workers to whom the fight for freedom is life itself. Gene Debs, a railway worker out of Terre Haute, Indiana, left a gift to the workers of America, to the workers of the South. That gift was a policy. Organize the unorganized! Build industrial unions! The other part of the gift was an example of fighting courage and faith in the people.

READ TRUTH FOR A CHANGE

PLENTY of talk is circulated around the South about the Reds. The newspapers carry weird stories of foreign invasions and alien agitators. Hearst tries to picture the Reds as bearded men with smoking bombs in their pockets.

The average worker is no dummy, but when he reads nothing but the capitalist press he is bound to get some queer ideas. In justice to himself, he should send for and read some of the Reds' literature. He should read for himself the position of the Communists in the trade unions, toward churches and politics.

Write for Red literature to Box 572, Birmingham, Alabama. Give the Reds a chance to tell you the truth about themselves.

Why Poll Tax Reform?

By ROE F. HALL

AS the power and influence of the Black Belt landlords and the coal and steel barons grow stronger in the legislative halls of Alabama and in the high seats of government, the honest citizens, the common people, have become greatly disturbed. An increasingly larger number of them have very correctly put their finger on our feudal poll tax system as the thing which deprives the masses of common people of a voice and steadily puts more power in the hands of the ruling clique and permits the ruling clique to pile up power in its own hands.

They have seen the number of qualified voters decline every year. In Jefferson county, for instance, which includes the metropolises of Birmingham and the city of Bessemer, making for a population of about 400,000, there are only 20,000 qualified to vote this year. This is 10,000 less than in 1932, when about 30,000 were qualified to vote.

Mr. Charles W. Edwards, assistant registrar at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, in a plea for the reform of the cumulative poll tax law, said recently: "Only one in every seven Alabamians of voting age voted in the 1932 presidential election, while in Iowa, two out of every five voted. With approximately the same population, Iowa cast 1,012,452 votes in 1932 and Alabama cast 243,580."

THE movement against the poll tax system in Alabama has not yet gone so far as to demand the complete abolition of the poll tax. It has been limited to the demand merely for the reform of the cumulative feature, and a bill was introduced into the state legislature to permit citizens to vote on the payment of two years' back poll taxes. As unsatisfactory as this is, it is a progressive step and deserves the support of the people.

It will be remembered that this reform was a plank in the legislative platform of the State Federation of Labor and had the endorsement of many groups. In running for office Gov. Graves pledged himself to work for the enactment of this bill. When the governor called a special session of the legislature this spring, however, he did not put poll tax reform on the agenda. This meant that for the bill to become law, it would be necessary to get not merely a simple majority, but a three-fourths majority. Well, the bill was forced onto the floor by some of the more progressive legislators. In the house the bill received 57 votes as compared with 22 against. But this was not a sufficient majority to make it a law and the resolution was lost.

The enemies of poll tax reform have generally kept their mouths shut, merely saying no when the time came. They were afraid to show their reactionary and selfish purposes behind their opposition to the reform. But just recently the Montgomery Advertiser, the capitalist newspaper which speaks for the Black Belt landlords, came out and told the truth.

The Advertiser, in an editorial, stated that it was not in favor of lowering the poll tax because: "The class that is disqualified from voting because it has not paid its poll tax includes, among others, THOSE WHO ARE DESTITUTE, people who are living on relief."

"The immediate removal of the cumulative poll tax burden would arm the dispossessed with a political power that responsible citizens cannot afford to grant. . . . The repeal of this article would invest the pauperized thousands of our people with the balance of power in Alabama politics."

Here is a close-up picture of this fascism that is in the saddle in Germany and Italy, and we can see it taking shape here in the outspoken reaction of the Advertiser.

Could there be a stronger argument as to why we should reform the poll tax, as to why we should as soon as possible abolish it entirely? Could there be a more convincing reason why we should get together and form a Farmer-Labor Party, a party of the common people which will put our representatives in office throughout the state and nation?

The reform and abolition of the poll tax and the formation of a Farmer-Labor Party are two steps which must be taken to preserve the democratic rights of the common people of Alabama.

Every local union and every central body and state federation should give all possible support to these drives.