

SOUTHERN WORKER

Magazine of the Common People of the South

Vol. IX, No. 14

CHATTANOOGA, TENN, MAY, 1937

Price 3c



JOHN L. LEWIS
Chairman of the C.I.O.

**HERNDON
FREE!**

**GRAND
LUMBERMAN**

**Herndon
Victory**

Textile Town
By Beth McHenry

**Racketeers
In Patriotism**
By John L. Spivak

**Farm Workers'
Challenge**
By Jerry Coleman

**Save Our
Children!**
By Pat Barr

**Newt Gets
'Civilized'**
(A short story)
By Don West

**WHAT ORGANIZING THE UNORGANIZED
MEANS TO THE SOUTH**

(See Page 2)

Southern Worker

Magnazine of the Common People
of the South

Published Monthly by the Communist
Party of the U.S.A. in the South

Address: Box 1282, Chattanooga,
Tennessee

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ANGELO HERNDON

A GREAT VICTORY

ANGELO HERNDON IS FREE!

The news of victory rolled across the nation's presses April 26th, telling the proud story of a Negro youth who fought for his people, his class, who suffered imprisonment in Georgia. Angelo Herndon is free and the Georgia slave law under which he was sentenced to serve 20 years on the chain-gang is dead.

The Herndon victory is a victory of all progressive forces over the reactionary landlords and big businessmen of the South. The men who went back to reconstruction days for a law to authorize the killing of Herndon, to try to check the organization of Southern labor.

Angelo Herndon is free, after five years during which the I. L. D. has never ceased its struggle for his release, after two unfavorable decisions from the United States Supreme Court, which now returns a 5-4 decision to free this proudest son of the American working class.

There's only one answer and Angelo Herndon tells it; the united effort of the working class and its sympathizers won my freedom, he says.

There is only one path to pursue and Angelo Herndon will continue on it: "There is still greater work to do. I am happy to be free to continue in the struggle for Negro emancipation and working class freedom."

MAY DAY, 1937

AS WE WRITE THIS, a united front committee is arranging a monster May Day parade in New York City. A half million workers are expected to parade. This great gathering has been made possible by the joint work, the united front, of the trade unions and the Communist and Socialist Parties. On a scale not quite so broad, similar parades will be held in other big cities.

"Orators from Moscow," the reactionary labor haters will say. They forget, or pretend to forget, that May Day was first made a Labor Holiday by American labor. May Day, as a day to celebrate Labor's struggles, began in Chicago more than 50 years ago as a campaign for the eight-hour day. Since then May Day has become an INTERNATIONAL working class holiday.

It is very appropriate that in New York and other cities the May Day parades are the outgrowth of a united front of all Labor's organizations. The real message of May Day is unity of the common people around Labor's banner. And what we call unity was once spoken of, by a very wise and good man, as "the brotherhood of Man."

PROTECT OUR GAINS

THE REACTIONARIES OF WALL STREET, the Liberty League and the National Association of Manufacturers are working very busily to try to rob Labor of its victory in the Wagner Act decision. The tories are proposing two laws which, if adopted, would hog-tie the labor movement and form the basis of a big business dictatorship over the entire country. These proposals are: compulsory arbitration and forced incorporation of the unions.

Under cover of pretending that these measures will help prevent labor disputes, big business is trying to limit and eventually abolish the right to strike.

Without the right to strike labor cannot protect itself. Labor can not and will not permit limitations on the right to strike!

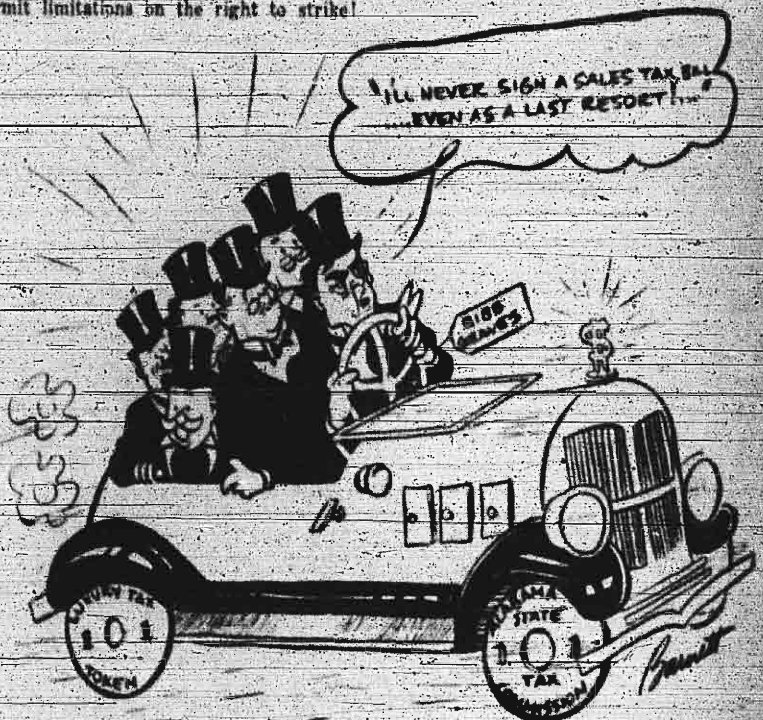
JOIN NOW!

After reading the Southern Worker, I can see that the Communist Party is the best organization which fights for the demands and rights of the common people of the South.

- I want more information about the Communist Party.
- I want to join the Communist Party.

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When Governor Bibbs Graves of Alabama was elected he declared, "I will never sign a sales tax bill even as a last resort." But when the moneybags demanded that the tax be passed, he took the lead and had no hesitation in driving them right where they wanted to go. The Communist Party is leading a campaign to repeal the onerous sales tax. It points out that cooperation of all the people, of the trade unions, Socialist Party and other organizations willing to work for the repeal of this unjust law will be able to force the Governor and the Legislature to act.

SINCE APPOMATTOX

● By R. F. HALL



William Mitch, Southern Regional Director of the Committee for Industrial Organization, President of the Alabama State Federation of Labor, who leads the drive to organize the steel workers of the South.

THE other day at a meeting in Virginia, Texas' progressive fighter for the rights of the people (we refer to Congressman Maury Maverick) said that the people of the South "have been starved and kicked around ever since the Battle of Appomattox."

Of course, the PEOPLE of the South were kicked around for a long time before Appomattox. But nobody can deny that the kicking has increased considerably since those days. The difference is that instead of being kicked around only by the custom-made boot of the Southern planters, the people have now had the honor of having their backsides bruised by Yankee manufacturers, and Wall Street bankers, as well as by the homegrown mine operator and mill owner who arose since Appomattox.

Thus the picture of the South today is one which fills every honest, patriotic Southerner who loves his native land with a well-justified sense of shame. On every side we find low wages, long hours, intolerable speed-up practices. Mr. Maverick said that we in the South have the poorest labor laws of the country. The fact is, we have practically no protective legislation for any section of the common people. Mr. Maverick mentioned a law requiring fire escapes for two-story buildings which was killed by real estate owners.

OUR soil is ruined and bankrupted because of a tenancy system which makes soil conservation impossible. The majority of our people cannot vote because of poll taxes and other methods of disfranchisement and the Negro people lack the lost elementary civil rights.

Our courts have become so hopelessly shackled to corrupt politics and reactionary politicians that a man who organizes his fellows for a better life is given a long term on the chain gang and men who apply blow torches to helpless Negroes in chains are permitted to go scot free.

Our schools peter out each year before spring while Northern schools carry on for nine months. In fact, while Northern schools spend hundreds of dollars per student, Southern states spend an average of \$14 per white student per year. This is bad enough, but for each Negro student, the Southern states spend an average of only \$12.47.

Public health service is practically nonexistent in a majority of Southern counties and we have, therefore, an alarming high prevalence of tuberculosis and social diseases.

I had relatives at Appomattox, at Shiloh and Vicksburg. But I say sincerely that if ALL of the things which our Southern history books say about Sherman's march to the sea were true, they could not begin to equal the depredations, the sinful waste, the utter destruction of human being and natural resources which the rule of reactionary Southern politicians and their big business masters have brought upon us.

THESE complaints might be no more than a lone voice crying in the wilderness if it were not for the fact that the Southern people are awakening and rousing themselves. There is at hand a weapon which, if the Southern people will but seize and wield, it can break the shackles and make possible the march toward freedom, happiness, progress. This weapon is the campaign of Labor to organize the unorganized.

Under the leadership of John L. Lewis of the Committee for Industrial Organization, 250,000 steel workers in the South are being organized. The drive in textiles has begun with the aim of bringing the majority of the South's 400,000 textile workers into the union. In every big city of the South and in countless of mill-villages, and small towns the beginnings of activity can be seen.

But what has started in steel and textile cannot help but have an effect on other industries, many of which are not connected with the C.I.O. The farm wage workers, for instance. Perhaps the timber



A. Steve Nance, Southern Regional Director of the Textile Workers Organizing Committee, president of the Georgia State Federation of Labor, who leads the drive to organize textile workers in the deep South.

and turpentine workers next. And in the cities, laundry, teamsters, building trades, every craft and industry is being affected. In those mass production industries which have come South, such as rubber, paper, auto, aluminum, the drive is already showing results. And in the ports, maritime and shipyard workers are not only organizing but freeing their unions from the control of self-seeking bureaucrats.

THE organization of the workers has as its first product higher wages, shorter hours, and generally more humane conditions for those who do the toiling. It will bring about in a short while the abolition of the Southern wage differential, that vicious system which condemns Southern workers to lower pay than Northern workers for the same job.

But there are by-products to the organizing of the workers. "The C.I.O." said John L. Lewis, "is not blind to the fact that the secondary result of the movement, its by-product, is political. Workers must, first of all, obtain a larger participation in the economic life of the country. Secondly, they must have a larger share in the political life and in its government."

The working class has always been the most progressive section of the population. (Continued on next page)

SINCE APPOMATOX

(Continued from page 3)

The influence of the workers in government and in politics is all in the direction of progress. Here in the South, Labor's participation as an organized force in politics means the death knell of reactionary control and reactionary policies. The evils afflicting our Southland that we described will be wiped out as a result of the awakening and organizing of Southern Labor.

LABOR realizes the injustice of the sales tax. Labor sees discrimination in the poll tax. Labor knows that lynching and persecution of the Negro people divides and weakens the working class. Here let us point out that in the South, vicious race prejudice is being first eliminated in the labor unions where white and Negro workers are learning through the experience of their own struggles that they have common interests.

Labor is learning that it must participate as a class in politics in the South. Already sections of Labor's Non-Partisan League

are being formed as a by-product of the drive to organize the unorganized. The next step is a Farmer Labor Party. This step will be taken as soon as Labor realizes, first, the necessity of political action completely independent of the old parties, and second, the importance of winning allies among the farmers, middle classes, and the common people.

The march is on, and this is no time for pessimism. This is the time for bold, courageous action, and the reward will be a free, happy and prosperous Southland for ALL the people.

FARM WORKERS' CHALLENGE

● By JERRY COLEMAN

THE Farm Laborers Wage Conference held in Birmingham, April 18, marked an important step of the labor movement to raise standards of one of the most numerous and important groups of the South.

The cotton field workers receive from five cents to eight cents an hour for their labor. They work from daylight till dark. They live in shacks where it rains inside and cold winter winds blow quilts off the bed. Their clothes are mostly in rags and shoes that don't keep their feet off the ground. For about six months of the year there is no work on the farm. They depend on jobs in sawmills, other labor on plantations or upon government relief. They cannot afford doctors' care or medicine. The flu and other diseases claim many lives in the winter. These are the conditions the newly chartered Farm Laborers and Cotton Field Workers Union (A. F. of L.) aims to replace with a much higher standard of living.

The Share Croppers Union was the first organization to tackle this problem. It conducted the first organized strike of cotton field workers. Now the wage workers in the Share Croppers Union will unite in the new A. F. of L. Union to become a part of the great American labor movement.

THE conference itself has served two purposes. First, it has outlined the demands of the farm laborers. Second, it has won the support of organized workers and farmers in a state organizing committee, to build and spread the union.

The progressive people in the South who wish to see new industry help build a new era will see that consumers power is a basic problem. Increased consuming power for farm laborers means not only an increase in their miserably low living standard but an increased market for Southern industry.

Industrial workers will have their wage level in the South raised through raising farm wages. It will be a large step toward abolition of the Southern wage differential.



M. Walker Martin, provisional president of the Farm Laborers and Cotton Field Workers Union, No. 10471, which called Alabama's first Agricultural Workers Wage Conference.

Small farmers who now compete with large landlords will find that increased wages will give them a better chance in the market with the large landowner. The smaller farmer does not hire much labor. It is the large landlord who pays starvation wages, undersells the small farmer, and then mortgages and forecloses on small farms to enlarge his own plantation.

The Farm Laborers Union has correctly decided to concentrate its organizational work on the large plantations. Here also is where it will meet the most opposition from the landlords. And will have to struggle for the very right to exist.

IN DECIDING to work for wage increases through public support, the union has issued a challenge to all fair-minded citizens. This method of securing wage increases will bring before all the people of the South one of the basic reasons for the

South's general poverty. The union says strikes will be used only as a last resort.

Until now the farm laborer has been left out of all social legislation passed through the Congress. In cooperation with other agricultural workers unions and the organized labor movement, these "forgotten slaves of the cotton plantations" must demand their rightful place in the sun.

THE problems of working conditions, unemployment, housing, education, medical care and so forth must be carried before are county, state, and federal government with the demand that new and higher standards, in keeping with the progress of our nation be established.

The farm laborer is anxious to organize. He sees his condition but he sees little chance and has little faith that his oppressors will help him. He knows the opposition that will come from the landlords. However, the Wage Conference has set the stage. Now all labor and organized farmers and progressive people should help and support organization of the farm laborer. Only through wide support and cooperation can the aims of the organization become fact.

Wage Scale adopted at First Wage Conference for Agricultural Workers in Alabama:

Chopping Cotton	.....	\$1.50 a day
Picking Cotton	.....	\$1.25 per 150 lb.
Picking Peas	.....	\$1.25 per 100 lb.
General Farm Labor	.....	\$1.20 a day
Farm Labor by the month, with meals	.....	\$20 a month

Farm Labor by the month, without meals

Wages for chopping cotton at present average 60 cents a day, for picking cotton 50 cents a day, for general farm labor 40 cents a day, for farm labor by the month from \$10 to \$15 a month.

TEXTILE TOWN

● By BETH McHENRY

(Editor's Note: The textile organizing campaign is already under way in the South to eliminate just such conditions as Beth McHenry describes. 50 organizers dispatched throughout the South by T.W.O.C. Regional Director, A. Steve Nance are expected to concentrate on synthetic yarn mills in Elizabethton, Nashville, Burlington, Roanoke and Asheville. Southern headquarters for the drive are in the National Building in Atlanta, Ga.)

IT MUST have been the Chamber of Commerce that named Elizabethton and vicinity Happy Valley. I haven't seen a worker here yet who would have any use for such a word. If you've ever a wish to go to a part of the country where conditions under which workers live and labor would bring the blush of shame to our forefathers' brows, just take a bus trip to Elizabethton, Tenn. (You can't get there by train.)

Out of a population of about 10,000 approximately 5,000 people work in the rayon plants—a pair of German owned institutions Jured to Elizabethton by the local Chamber of Commerce 10 years ago and exercising the whip hand over the community ever since—except for a few memorable hours during that period known still as simply "THE STRIKE."

The strike in Elizabethton took place in 1929 (Gastonia year) and the militancy of these workers who had never heard of the union before they struck against their intolerable working conditions, can be illustrated by a story a blacklisted worker here told me. It happened during the strike, when hundreds of pickets were being arrested—so many that the jail could not hold them all. This was the morning of a trial of several union men, and the courtroom was filled to overflowing with strikers and sympathizers.

THERE were two judges holding forth at that trial, the worker, a dark haired man with sunken eyes and hollowed cheeks, told me. "And all around them and the bench were National Guardsmen—you know, them little soldier-boys with guns they ain't never handled before, half of them. Well, the people in that courtroom was so full of feeling that day, even them old judges got to seeing it. And the little soldiers was so scared anyone could have took their guns away. Now the people in the audience didn't do a damn thing, mind you—all they did was stand up and crowd toward the front of the room. The magistrates sneaked out the back door and didn't come back till after the union leaders got the people to sit down. But I tell you there



Company owned houses in Elizabethton, Tenn. where rayon workers are forced to live. Though rents are high in comparison with wages the workers receive, the company refuses to make repairs on the houses.

wasn't no convictions that morning. No, sir. That was one day old Bealberg and Glanzstoff didn't have nothing to say about what went on in the courts of our fair city."

The workers still call the rayon plants by their original German names, changed now to "American" and "North American" plants. They both belong to the same company, but one makes a better grade of rayon from wood pulp. Glanzstoff manufactures from cotton. The plants lie alongside each other about a mile from the town of Elizabethton, on the Watauga River.

THE company is the whole works in Elizabethton. The \$13 and \$14 a week workers are bitter about it. The town is alive with unrest and dissatisfaction. Shabby overalled men gather together during off work hours in the many cheap cabs which line the main street of "new town" (the part that has been built since the company came here). They talk union still. Two companies of National Guardsmen were sent in by the governor in 1929 to break their strike and these are the people who picketed in the face of machine-guns. They were crushed because their strike story was the same tragic tale you'll find in many textile communities of the South. Organization was not brought to them before the walkout. They had only their courage with which to carry on. The union came in too late and the company had all the legal and illegal forces of strike-breaking at its disposal.

The strike blacklist was a roll call of

more than 1,000 workers.

Relief in Elizabethton! You should know what it means. Shacks that rats would aban, vouchers for foodstuffs that never bumped into a vitamin, and \$1.50 a week out of which rent must be paid.

You won't find a poor family in all of this part of Happy Valley without members who either work at the plant or have worked there. I walked along a muddy road with a kid about nine who had been sent home from school sick. He said it wasn't anything; he got that way half the time.

HE HAULS things on a truck now," the boy said. "But that ain't much in that in a town this here size. He used to get as much as \$15 up at the plant." He wagged his head wisely. "Of course you can't go on forever, my old man says. They let him go because he's old. He'll be 26 in May and he spits blood."

Fifteen dollars a week is high pay in Elizabethton whose Chamber of Commerce told the German rayon manufacturers at the start that they could have all the labor they wanted for no more than \$2 a day. And though the 40-hour week has replaced the 56-hour one, which obtained at the time of the strike, the Corporation still is getting all the labor it wants without paying more. It's like one worker told me, "You sure just ought to see what them poor devils put out during the hours they do work. They ain't nothing like it this side of hell."

RACKETEERS IN PATRIOTISM

● By JOHN L. SPIVAK

RACKETEERING in patriotism has become a thriving business in the United States and as much in the South as throughout the rest of the country. Space prohibits naming all the organizations, big and small. The big ones are really influential and the small ones are hopefully struggling along in the expectation of bigger, better, and more patriotic days. Some of the organizations which are racketeering in patriotism with a more or less devout following are:

National Republic, Washington, D.C. Crusaders for Economic Liberty, Chattanooga, Tenn. The Fellowship Forum, Washington, D.C. American Vigilant Intelligence Federation, Chicago, Ill. The Paul Revere, Chicago, Ill. Industrial Defense Association, Boston, Mass. Order of 76, New York, N.Y. American Nationalists, Inc., New York, N.Y. American Nationalist Party, Los Angeles, Cal.

Some of these ultra "patriotic" organizations have already been exposed as working with paid secret agents of the Nazi government's propaganda machine in the United States.

Other organizations have never been exposed as high pressure salesmen of 100 per cent "Americanism" and have consequently become extremely influential like the "National Republic," which is located at 511 11th St., N.W., Washington, D.C., and which is accepted by men high in public office and leading industrialists as an organization earnestly trying to inculcate "Americanism" and put the fear of Communism in the public mind.

Every time I start looking into organiza-

tions with their high-sounding names I am profoundly impressed with the accuracy of Barnum's noted observation. Raise the cry of patriotism and 140 to 180 per cent "Americanism" and industrialists shell out.

The industrialists want to see propaganda for their type of "Americanism" since almost all of these groups carry out an anti-labor policy. The propaganda, of course, is rarely conducted as an open fight against labor but is put across as a fight to save America from the Communists—and the

Communists are the ones behind labor agitation.

But let's consider one of the most respectable of these organizations, one which has an amazing list of endorsees including governors, mayors, senators, congressmen and industrialists and see how that organization works the "patriotic" racket and in lean days advertises racial hatred to get in a few more dollars. I am referring to the "National Republic."

This magazine which is virtually the entire organization is dedicated "to defending American ideals and institutions" and on that slogan has gotten the approval of men prominent as leaders in American political and industrial life.

Among the leading industrialists sponsoring "The National Republic" are some of the most bitter anti-labor individuals.

F. E. Fieger, vice-president, Jones & Laughlin, Pittsburgh, Pa. S. F. Boyken, president, Coca Cola Co., Atlanta, Ga. G. A. High, president, U. S. Smelting and Refining Co., Boston, Mass. Chester Bernard, president, N. J. Bell Telephone Co., Newark, N. J. J. C. Lockwood, vice-president, American Brass Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Charles B. Bedford, Standard Oil Co., New York, N. Y. H. C. Weller, Norfolk & Western R.R., Norfolk, Va. W. G. Skelly Oil Co., Tulsa, Okla. Charles Bancroft, president, United Shoe Machine Co., Boston, Mass. George E. Clapp Aluminum Co. of America, Pittsburgh, Pa. Vaughn Nixon, Atlanta Woolen Mills, H. D. Bennett, president, Toledo Scale

(Cont'd on page 9)

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Washington Office: 201 ALBERT STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 5, 1934.

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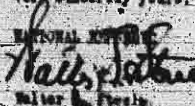
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My dear Sir:

We wish to take this opportunity of expressing our deep appreciation for the kind interview given our representatives, Messrs. Fair and Hamilton, as well as for your interest in our nation-wide program against radicalism.

In order that you may become familiar with the material we disseminate, we are placing your name on our mailing list so that you will receive our publications as they are issued. We are also sending you a copy of our report to the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, in which you will undoubtedly be interested.

If we can be of service to you at any time, kindly advise us.

Very sincerely yours,

 Hails, Editor

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The editor of the "National Republic," who sent his high pressure salesman to the mayor Tulsa, Oklahoma, thanks him for the aid given them in contacting the heavy industry boys.

SAVE OUR CHILDREN

By PAT BARR



The son of a cotton share cropper in Lauderdale Co., Miss., helping to pick the crop.

I WAS up in Cleveland, Tenn. last month. The workers in the Hardwick Woolen Mills were on strike. When I went to see one of the women who had walked out because they were making only \$6 a week and Hardwick wanted to cut that, she was busy working on a candlewick spread. As we talked her fingers rapidly worked in the pattern in one corner. Her two youngest children were each working on other corners.

The little one was no more than eight, a pale blonde child, cleanly dressed. Her cotton dress hung on her thin shoulders. The older girl was 11, taller than the youngest but just as thin.

I asked her if she was just doing this work during the strike to help out 'til she went back to work.

"No," she replied. "I do it even when I work in the mill. I can't make enough at the mill to feed and take care of us all. My husband can't find any work at all since he was laid off at the foundry."

IT WAS about eleven o'clock in the morning. "Don't the children go to school?" I asked her. "We started the older one in school two years ago," she said, but it got so bad up here, and when the spread work came along we figured it would help out a lot if she worked on them. We didn't want to make her work but we haven't been able to make ends meet for so long. We haven't put the youngster in school yet."

As I left Cleveland, I kept thinking of what Governor Gordon Browning of Tennessee had said in a public statement when the child labor amendment to the U. S. Constitution came before the Tennessee Legislature this year.

"Its ratification," he declared, "means that Washington bureaucrats will come down here and tell our farmers that they cannot work their own children. Under its terms, they will tell a housewife that although she has a daughter 17 years and 11 months of age she cannot let that girl wash dishes for another month."

THE child labor amendment was not passed by the Tennessee State Legislature.

The children of Cleveland are only one example of what is going on all over the United States and especially in the South. The last United States Census (1930) showed that at least 667,118 children between the ages of 10 and 15 were working on farms and in industry. The census didn't mention the hundreds of thousands of children under 10 years who were working.

More children are forced to work in the South than anywhere else in the country, the census also showed. The 12 states with the highest percentage in the United States of children working between the ages of 10 and 15 were Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Kentucky and Virginia.

IN THE South, the lot of the white children is bad enough, but that of the Negro children is even worse. They work harder and longer hours. A special study of child labor in Texas cotton fields made by the federal government's National Child Labor Committee showed that the "average daily hours (worked at picking cotton) ranged from 9.2 among the children of the



Children of workers in the Progress Machine Building Works of Berdichev, Soviet Union, playing in the day nursery run by the factory.

whites . . . to 11.3 among the children of Negroes."

The Governor Brownings, the mill owners and plantation owners—the money bags who know they can get children to work cheaper than adults—have successfully prevented the passage of the child labor amendment.

THE family up in Cleveland wouldn't have to have its children work on spreads if Congress passed a law shortening the work week to 30 hours because more people would be put back to work. No children would have to work if the wages of their parents were increased.

There is one country in the world where children of workers and farmers are happy and healthy. That is the Soviet Union, the land of Socialism. There, children under 16 are not allowed to work. They must go to school. The number of children there in elementary schools has grown from 10,000,000 in 1928 to 19,000,000 in 1933 and is still going up. Walter Durnaty, correspondent of the New York Times, writes thus of children in the Soviet Union: "There is no city of 4,000,000 inhabitants in the world where the children are healthier and happier than in the Soviet capital."

Eight more state legislatures must ratify the child labor amendment before it will become law in the United States. Only two Southern states, Arkansas and Kentucky have passed the amendment. Pressure on the legislatures of the rest of the Southern states by the common people through their unions and other organizations and through writing to their legislators can force them to do the same.

NEWT GETS "CIVILIZED"

THE case was Stoneface Coal Corp versus Newt Stamper. He stood before the court, arrested on a "distress" warrant. It was the first time I'd seen Stamper. He was pushed into the court room by a deputy. I noted the swagger and usual self-importance of the one who wears the guns.

Newt stood over six feet, a powerfully built man. His face was chiseled hard, but soft touches around the edges reminded me of the blue lines an artist put in a painting of Stone Mountain. He was in the prime of years. Yet his hair was white. His shoulders had the usual miner's swag. His eyes twinkled, a smiling, fearless grant.

When he spoke in the court there was half a smile on his lips, too, it seemed. Newt had been brought up on the old American tradition of freedom and equality. That was what they taught him in grammar school. In the other school of experience he had learned a lot of other things.

NEWT spoke, and his smile seemed to lose its humor. His face went harder. Eyes twinkled now in little steel-like glitters. That's a dangerous way for a mountain man's eyes to do. Some time it means death to some one. Once it might have meant generations of fighting between families. But the Coal corporation came in to "civilize" the mountains. Some say they've done a good job. Anyhow, today we have a new generation. How can we expect more with what we live on! This morning I had bulldog gravy made with flour, grease and water and black coffee. Our kids eat the stuff and we know they are starved.

But back to Newt Stamper. He stated his case to the court. The Stoneface Corporation wanted to move him from their house. Newt spoke—

YES, it's their house! Hain't they risked their lives back under the mountains to claw at the black mass of wealth! Hain't they skint their knuckles and calloused their hands on its hard sharp edges? Hain't they lived in constant dread of kettle-buttoms, horse-backs, timbers, gas? Hain't they seed their kids in rags, barefooted and hungry? Yes, it is their house, their water, their land, their air, their world!

When Stamper spoke those words he was calm. His voice was soft, but those words stabbed clear through the stodgy court house atmosphere.

He went on with his defense. Yet it really was not a defense, but an indictment of the Stoneface Corporation. He reviewed the case. He had been a leader in bringing the union into the Blue Creek mines. He was only running a day or so a week, had lived in a company house. The mines. Many of the houses were empty.

First they had opposed the union in the Stoneface mines. They had fired Newt. The men had spoken in protest. He was rehired.



A Baby Girl Went Out to Play in the Sunshine on "Company" Ground

Now, when work was worse than slack again, he was taken with a distress warrant. They charged that he was behind in rent. But everybody knew that rent was one of the first things to be checked off a miner's pay.

NEWT stated all this. He also said that he had hunted for a house and found none. He knew some Kentucky miners had been forced to live in rock cliffs. He said he hated to take his family of small ones and do this.

The court decreed that he "must move." I watched his face as it was announced. The slight smile still played around his mouth. His eyes seemed to be like two hot blazes burning. He didn't look like a whipped man—it seemed to me that he looked like the pioneers must have looked when they came to carve homes out of these wild mountain valleys. I wanted to meet him and grip his hand, but the important looking deputy shoved him into the crowd. That was the last time I saw Newt Stamper.

We went stogging back across Bear Wallow to Devil's Hollow. We dwell on the trial and talked over the story of Newt's father.

THE story runs this way. Back in the early days Newt's grandfather had swapped a yoke of steers and a mule for 200 acres of land. He raised his family on it. He cleared forests and built rock dams on the creeks to catch settlements. At his death, the farm fell to Josiah Stamper, Newt's father. He in turn started to raise his family on it.

That was about the time the outside speculators began breaking into the mountains to "civilize us." The rich deposits of coal were enticements. They mouthed sweet words of fair promises. They bought for a little, practically nothing—they schemed in one way or another. As old Job Kilgore said, "We didn't know the value of what we really owned. The varmints bought us out for a song, and by Jeeminy, made us sing it ourselves."

When the Stoneface Corporation started on Blue Creek it got all the land except the 200 Stamper acres. They tried to buy the land, offering a "bargain price." Old Josiah just shook his head. Said he reckoned he'd just stay and raise his family on the farm. Didn't want no company diddling around on his farm nohow.

Then the Stoneface Corporation produced from nowhere an "original" land grant title to the Stamper farm. They went to court. Old Josiah was known everywhere as an upright citizen. The courts in those days were not what they are today in a coal county. It became evident that old Josiah would win the case.

IT WAS then that it happened. It is still a legend around these parts. Old Stamper was found dead one morning, a large bullet hole in the middle of his forehead.

The children were small. No one was left to carry on the fight. Shrewd lawyers knew their advantage. The Stamper farm became part of the Stoneface Corporation's domain.

Later it leaked out that a thug had been employed by the corporation to murder Old Stamper. But that was a long time after such things were not uncommon in the mountains of Kentucky.

But Newt Stamper—I never saw him again after that day in court.

It drifted down to Devil's Hollow by the grapevine telegraph. Things always do after a while. Newt had bone back to Blue Creek. When it became known that he had a court order to leave, the miners became angry. They demanded that he be permitted to stay in his house. Dozens of houses were empty anyhow. They threatened another strike. It was agreed that Newt stay on.

He was planting a garden to eke out the scant vittles. It was a sunny Saturday

A SHORT STORY

● By DON WEST

morning. He carried the spinly youngest one along to play in the sunshine. A shot rang out. Newt stumbled to his knees. He crawled a few feet towards where the baby sat in the furrow sifting dirt through its fingers.

The oldest girl found them there. When she came a looking the child was playing with its daddy's hair. The white mass was matted red with mud and blood. The child's

hands were sticky with mud made from dirt and its daddy's blood. Its face was smeared with a strange mixture. It sat there not knowing what it all meant—not knowing what the future held—what heritage it had received.

That was the story that came by grapevine. We all had our opinions. Mine was that Newt was good and "civilized" now. I never got to shake his hand. That has always bothered me.

RACKETEERS IN PATRIOTISM

(Continued from page 6)

Co., Toledo, Ohio. Carl B. Gray, vice-president, Milwaukee R.R., St. Paul, Minn. Clarence M. Brown, chairman of the board, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.

The "National Republic" is a magazine issued monthly and, as its name denotes, specializes in nationalistic "patriotism."

The procedure of milking the suckers by these "patriots" is simple. Salesmen with a dollar-pulling line that would make a fake oil stock promoter purple with envy, is given a letter of introduction to the mayor of a city.

Let me illustrate a little more specifically: On March 4, 1934, Steele sent two of his best high pressure schekel-pullers, the Messrs. Fahr and Hamilton into Oklahoma oil fields where the industrialists would like to see a minimum of 200 per cent Americanism instilled in the public mind. The Messrs. Fahr and Hamilton had letters of introduction to Mayor T. A. Penney of Tulsa, Okla. (The letter thanking the Mayor for his cooperation is reproduced with this article).

Steele works on the big industrialists, Congressmen, Senators and other politicians by whispering confidentially that he has sources of information that he can't talk about much. But these sources enable him to keep the industrialists informed of the activities of the "subversive radicals."

The confidential information must not be shown to anybody else and is confined to carefully selected members. Extreme caution is necessary lest the radicals find out about it and the secret sources of information might be stopped. With all this hocus, secrecy and whispering, the average industrialist becomes a member at so much per membership and with an occasional contribution to help the good work along—not realizing that he is being played for a sucker. All the "secret" information which is sent out so confidentially and so much whispering about confidential sources of information can be gotten for three cents a day by subscribing to the Daily Worker, or for 25 cents a year to the Southern Worker.

This is one type of racketeering in patriotism. Space forbids giving you the tails of the various groups but I shall mention only a few of the industrialists and detectives in the South who fall for this in a big way and are patrons of the "National Republic":

H. C. Weiler, Norfolk and Western R.R., Norfolk, Va.; B. F. Boyden, president, Coca Cola Co., Atlanta, Ga.; W. G. Shelly, Shelly Oil Co., Tulsa, Okla.; Vaughn Nixon, Atlanta Woolen Mills, Atlanta, Ga.; A. E. Duncan, Chamber of Commercial Credit, Baltimore, Md.; P. E. Glenn, Exposition Cotton Mills, Macon, Ga.; J. Terry West, Baltimore, N. C.; Col. E. R. Bradley, Palm Beach, Fla., and Milton McDuff, detective, Birmingham, Ala.



The court decreed that he "must move."

The American Scene

SUPREME COURT YIELDS TO PRESSURE

The Supreme Court, frightened by increasing demands of the American people that it be deprived of the right to veto



Sen. Wagner

acts of Congress, made another about face and held several New Deal acts to be constitutional, including the Wagner Labor Relations Act which makes the right of collective bargaining legal.

Hailing the decision as a victory for the labor movement, progressives pointed out that gains won by pressure

in this decision would not be secure unless the Supreme Court is completely shorn of its dictatorial powers.

Labor and progressives continued to campaign vigorously for Roosevelt's court plan as the immediate answer to the problem. On April 19, Labor's Non-Partisan League held mass meetings in support of the plan in all the principal cities of the country.

ACTION FORCED ON ANTI-LYNCH BILL

A determined campaign by progressives forced a federal anti-lynching law to the floor of the House of Representatives for debate for the first time in 15 years. The Gavagan anti-lynching bill was brought to the floor by a petition campaign after reactionary Democrats who control the Judiciary Committee had attempted to prevent discussion of the measure by killing it in committee. It was passed in the House, 277-111.

Debate on the bill in the House of Representatives was interrupted by news of a particularly horrible lynching in Winona, Miss.

Among the many organizations which are backing the Gavagan Act are the National Negro Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

TORIES CENTER ANTI-LABOR ATTACK ON SIT-DOWNS

Reaction lost the first two rounds in the Congressional fight over the policy to be adopted on sit-down strikes.

Tories and economic royalists, alarmed by the growing strength and militancy of labor, seized upon the sit-down strike issue as the spearhead of their fight to curtail the rights of labor. Defeated in their attempt to attach an anti-sit-down rider to the Guffey Coal Bill and to force through a Congressional investigation of sit-downs,

reactionaries fell back on a resolution which denounced sit-down strikes, company unions and labor spying. The progressive bloc in Congress prepared to put up a strong fight against this bill on the floor of the House.

The chorus of employers and Liberty League lawyers denouncing sit-down strikes as "illegal" and "revolutionary" was joined by William Green, reactionary president of the A. F. of L.

AUTO WORKERS CONTINUE FORWARD MARCH

The militant strike of 60,000 auto workers in nine plants of the Chrysler company won them the first contract the Chrysler company ever signed with a union.

Hailed as a victory for the workers, the settlement recognizes the union and forbids

the management to sponsor company unions, although it does not provide for a closed shop.

The United Automobile Workers, a C.I.O. union, already has a membership of more than 300,000 and contracts with more than 100 plants.

"Ford is next" is now the auto workers' slogan.

COAL MINERS WIN NEW CONTRACT

The determination and solidarity of 300,000 soft coal miners in the Appalachian region forced operators to grant a new and better contract. Terms of the contract, won after a one-day stoppage, provide for a 50 cents a day increase, continuation of the 35-hour week, and time-and-a-half pay for overtime. The wage increases bring the basic daily wage to \$3.00 in the North and \$2.60 in the South.

Miners in other soft coal mining areas are demanding a new contract on the same basis as that signed for the Appalachian region.

The International Scene

The People's Army defending democracy in Spain delivered a series of smashing blows against the invading army of fascists. On the two most important fronts of the war at the present time—Guadalajara and Cordoba—Franco's troops were routed.

For the first time since the outbreak of the war, the fascists have been put definitely on the defensive.

The Lincoln Brigade, a group of American anti-fascist volunteers, played a central part in the heroic loyalist drive on the Guadalajara front.

The average wage of the industrial worker in the Soviet Union has practically doubled during the last four years, reaching a figure of 2,770 rubles in 1936. This wage does not include the wealth of free services which the Soviet worker gets, such as free health clinics, free vacation resorts, vacations with full pay, and pay for time lost due to illness.

Events of the past month have demonstrated once more that even Catholics are not exempt from persecution by the Nazi regime, though Hitler and the Pope work hand in hand to murder democracy in Spain and set up a fascist dictatorship.

A letter from the Pope was read in every Catholic church in Germany simultaneously

denouncing the Hitler government for violating its treaty with the Vatican. The reply of the Nazi government constituted in effect an official admission that violation of treaties was a part of the government policy, stating: "A previous 'yes' to the treaty may in fairness be changed to 'no' later under the pressure of circumstances."



Gen. Jose Miaja

Police opened machine gun fire on a crowd of peaceful demonstrators in Ponce, Puerto Rico, killing 10 and wounding 58. After the shooting police raided offices and homes of Nationalist Party members and jailed 68.

The parade which the police attacked was held in protest against the imprisonment of the leaders of the Puerto Rican independence movement. Former U. S. Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York, attorney for the imprisoned nationalist leaders, issued a statement charging that American officials are directly responsible for the terrorism.

The Belgian people overwhelmingly rejected fascism in a by-election for a seat in parliament in which Leon Degrelle, leader of the Rexist (fascist) party, ran against premier Paul Van Zeeland. The fascist leader received only 19 per cent of the total vote and a smaller number of votes than his party received in the last general elections.

The major issue of the election was fascism versus democracy. In view of the strong backing given Degrelle by Hitler and Mussolini the result of the election is an important setback for international fascism.

NEWS OF THE MONTH in the SOUTH

Steel

12,000 BIRMINGHAM STEEL WORKERS GET UNION RECOGNITION

Contracts granting union recognition, pay raises and better working conditions, to approximately 12,000 Birmingham steel workers were signed by the S.W.O.C. in the last month. Latest companies which have signed up with the union are the Southern States Iron Roofing Co. and the Gaslin Birmingham Machine Foundry Co.

Agreements had already been signed by T.C.I., American Casting Co., Birmingham Stove and Range, Continental Gin Co., and the Vulcan Rivet and Bolt Co. Contracts with Woodward Iron Co., Sloss Sheffield, Virginia Bridge and several others are already in the process of negotiation.

STEEL DRIVE BEGUN IN CHATTANOOGA

More than 750 Negro and white steel workers in Chattanooga nearly filled Memorial Auditorium to hear Steel Workers Organizing Committee representatives from Birmingham begin a drive to organize the thousands of Chattanooga steel workers. Local 1230 of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers was recently set up and already has a membership of approximately 600.

"Yes, the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co. (subsidiary of U. S. Steel) recognized the union and raised wages to \$3.50 a day for common labor. But we have only just begun to fight. We are going to wipe out the Southern wage differential," declared one of the organizers at the meeting. Steel workers doing common labor in Northern mills make \$5.00 a day.

Mines and Oil

ALA. COAL MINERS HOLD OUT FOR DEMANDS

20,000 Alabama coal miners held out against coal operators' efforts to widen the Southern wage differential, last month when operators offered only a 35 cents a day increase in wages though Northern coal miners received a 50-cents a day increase.

William Mitch, president of District 20, U.M.W.A., declared that the men would not return to work until their demands were granted.

As the Southern Worker goes to press, the first break among the operators becomes known when operators of wagon and truck mines employing 3,400 miners agreed to a 50 cents a day increase, closed shop, and check-off, the same terms which the Ap-



SIDNEY HILLMAN
Leader Textile Drive

alachian agreement won for Northern miners.

OIL WORKERS FOLLOW EXAMPLE OF STEEL

Final plans for launching a drive to organize 1,000,000 workers engaged in the production, transportation, refining and distribution of oil and gasoline products were laid out in Houston, Texas last month.

The seven day week among oil field drilling crews, lack of seniority right among refining crews and speed-up are among the many grievances that a strong union will eliminate. In an effort to forestall the organization drive, many companies have granted wage increases.

ORE MINERS CHARGE T.C.I. DISCRIMINATED AGAINST UNION

Charging the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co. with firing 155 ore miners because they are members of the International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, the union filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board in an effort to have the miners reinstated.

The union, which took action immediately after the Supreme Court declared the Wagner-Labor Relations Act constitutional, declared that the men had not been reemployed by T.C.I. after last year's red ore strike because of their union activities.

Textile

T.W.O.C. SIGNS UP VISCOSE LARGEST RAYON CO.

\$3,000,000 more a year will go into the pay envelopes of 20,000 rayon workers in the six plants of the Viscose Corporation according to the terms of an agreement just signed by the company with the Textile Workers Organizing Committee.

The contract, first signed with a major rayon company during the textile drive, recognizes the T.W.O.C. as the sole bargaining agency for the workers in its plants. In addition to the 10 per cent wage increase which raises the workers wages to \$15 a week, the contract provides for a 40-hour week, abolition of the third shift except in cases where continuous work is necessary and one week vacation with pay after one year of employment.

The company has plants in Roanoke, Va.; Marcus Hook, Pa.; Meadville, Pa.; Lewisburg, Pa.; and Parkersburg, W. Va. An additional plant, whose workers are also covered in the contract, will soon be opened at Nitro, W. Va.

LOUISVILLE MILL GETS SECOND T.W.O.C. CHARTER

Textile workers employed by Louisville Textile, Inc., Louisville, Ky., received the second charter issued for a T.W.O.C. local right after the company signed a contract with the Textile Workers Organizing Committee.

The first charter issued since the drive began went to 4,000 carpet workers employed by the Bigelow Sanford Co. in Amsterdam, N. Y. Fifty-eight companies have already signed agreements with the T.W.O.C. in the short time the drive has been under way.

TALLEDEGA COTTON MILL RAISES WAGES 10 PER CENT

In an attempt to head off a drive to organize its 600 workers, the Samoset Cotton Mills of Talldega, where Homer L. Welch, U.T.W. organizer was framed on charges of "conspiring to murder," granted a blanket wage increase of 10 per cent. The increase added approximately \$2,800 a month to the mill's payroll. Workers there haven't been fooled and are joining the union.

Negro Rights

MISS. MOB TORTURES LYNCHES NEGROES

Roosevelt Townes, 28 and "Bootjack" McDaniels, 26, who pleaded innocent to the slaying of a crossroads storekeeper in Winona, Miss. were dragged from the local jail and taken in a school bus 50 miles away to be tortured and finally lynched before they even had a chance to prove their innocence.

While the mob of 300 which murdered the Negroes was undoubtedly made up of local people, Sheriff E. E. Wright said that "he did not recognize any member" of it. Even while the lynching was taking place, the news was rushed to Governor Hugh White of Mississippi who refused to do anything to save them saying "it was too late."

Nation-wide publicity about the lynching

as a result of the Senate debate on the Gavan Anti-Lynching Bill forced Governor White to announce that he would hold a special investigation of the lynching.

PAROLES APPEALED FOR IN REELTOWN CASES

Paroles for six of the share croppers convicted and sentenced to chain gang sentences in the five-year old Reeltown case have been applied for, announced Joseph S. Gelders, Southern Representative of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners.

An appeal for parole for William Warren, the ninth share cropper to be convicted of "assault with intent to murder" Deputy Cliff Elder, one of four deputies who attacked a gathering of members of the Share Croppers Union, will be made after he has served six months of his two and a half year sentence. He was convicted in Dadeville last month, five years after he was indicted.

His parole and paroles for Sam Moss, Clinton Moss, Jugg Moss, New Cobb, Bully Warren and Willis Anderson will not be opposed by the office of the Solicitor of Tallapoosa County, Solicitor Sam Oliver said.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN AUGUST

Plans for a Youth Leadership Seminar to be held during the month of August at King's Mountain, N. C. were announced by the Richmond office of the Southern Negro Youth Congress with headquarters at 327 N. 1st Street, Richmond, Va. Fifty youth leaders from all parts of the South are expected to assemble to formulate concrete methods of extending the work of the Southern Negro Youth Congress. A discussion will be held on the proposed All-Texas Youth Conference scheduled for next fall and the All-Southern Negro Youth Conference expected to be held in Atlanta next February.

NEGRO YOUTH CONFERENCE EXTENDS WORK THROUGH SOUTH

Over 35 meetings involving 7,000 young people have been held in Durham, Greensboro, Sedalia, Winston-Salem, Salisbury, Atlanta, Birmingham and Chattanooga on progressive youth activities. Edward Strong, special field representative of the Southern Negro Youth Conference, announced.

Strong has just completed a tour of the South where he helped organize groups and clubs in the above cities and at the North Carolina College for Negroes, Palmer Memorial Institute, Bennett College, Morris Brown and Winston-Salem Teachers College. The groups and clubs were established to continue the six-point program worked out during the Richmond Conference.

Unemployed

BIRMINGHAM W.P.A. WORKERS PROTEST CUTS AT MASS MEETING

Fifteen hundred Negro and white unemployed and relief workers rallied at a mass



WILLIAM GREEN

Labor Foker

meeting held in the Birmingham Civic Auditorium to protest the impending slash of W.P.A. rolls. The meeting, sponsored by the Amalgamated Association of Government and Relief Workers also demanded a 20 per cent increase in wages.

The crowd cheered speaker after speaker as they denounced the intolerable conditions of the unemployed and relief workers. Speakers also decried the Southern wage differential which pays W.P.A. workers in Jefferson County \$35 a month for the same work for which Northern workers get \$55 a month.

Enthusiastically greeting representatives of the United Mine Workers Union who spoke at the meeting, the unemployed and relief workers unanimously passed a resolution pledging solidarity with the miners who are demanding an increase of 50 cents a day. William Mitch, president of the State Federation of Labor, regional director of the C.I.O. and district president of the U.M.W.A. assured the W.P.A. and unemployed workers of the support of the miners and the C.I.O. in their drive to organize the rest of the unemployed.

SAN ANTONIO W.A. STARTS ORGANIZATION DRIVE

Following a mass parade and demonstration of over 2,000 unemployed and W.P.A. workers through the streets of San Antonio and before the City Hall, the Workers Alliance launched an intensive organization drive. Thirteen branches with 3,000 dues-paying members have already been organized.

Emma Tenayuca, 20-year old of the W.A. county council, known to the Mexican workers as "La Paasionara Texana," announced that both the Central Grievance Committee and local W.P.A. project committees have been recognized by W.P.A. authorities. A mass rally of many thousands is expected to be held May 5, when Herbert Benjamin, organization secretary of the Alliance arrives in San Antonio.

Labor Unity

GEORGIA FEDERATION DEFEATS SPLITTING TACTICS

A splitting movement by William Green, A. F. of L. president, against the textile drive in the South was decisively defeated when the Executive Board of the Georgia Federation of Labor unanimously refused to remove A. Steve Nance as president of the Federation because he is the Southern Regional Director of the Textile Workers Organizing Committee.

Nance had previously refused to resign when asked to do so by George Googe, Southern representative of the A. F. of L.

The Federation's Executive Board sent Green a 4,000 word letter in which they said they would refuse to suspend locals of C.I.O. unions and that delegates from these locals would definitely be seated at the state convention. It could not see any disloyalty in organizing textile workers under the banner of the T.W.O.C., the board wrote Green, "because there are no other unions of these workers to join," and that it was compelled to follow the constitution of the Georgia Federation and the decisions of the Tampa Convention of the A. F. of L. "in spite of instructions to the contrary."

Shortly after the Executive Board's meeting, Holt Ross, Southern organizer for the A. F. of L. threatened to have the charter of the Georgia Federation lifted if they did not follow Green's disruptive instructions.

DOBBS RELECTION KEEPS CHATTANOOGA C.I.U. UNIFIED

Resisting efforts of several craft union international headquarters to split the Chattanooga labor movement, the Central Labor Union pledged itself to keep the labor movement unified when it re-elected militant Joe Dobbs president by the overwhelming majority of 45 to 26.

Five international representatives of craft unions converged on Chattanooga just before the election in an unsuccessful attempt to force their unions to suspend C.I.O. locals from the Central Labor Union.

Dobbs, known and loved throughout the entire Chattanooga region for his progressive stand and his activities in organizing the unorganized, will be sub-regional director for the Textile Workers Organizing Committee in Chattanooga.

In a resolution showing the Chattanooga Central Labor Union's wholehearted desire for national labor unity, the delegates appealed to President Roosevelt to bring the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. "together at an early date to seek a mutual settlement of their problems."

Civil Liberties

HARLAN COAL OPERATORS' TYRANNY OVER MINERS TOLD

The tyranny of Harlan County, Ky., coal operators over miners was described by members of the United Mine Workers of America before the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee in gripping detail last month. Larkin Baker, told the committee that at the request of Chief Deputy Sheriff of the County Ben Uthack, he had tried to "get a man to kill" Lawrence Baker, U.M.W.A. organizer.

Phillip Murray, U.M.W.A. national vice-president, charged that the operators "maintain a tyranny over the men the equal of which is not to be found in any civilized country in the world. They exact a tax on every ton of coal produced in the county to buy guns, ammunition and tear gas bombs and put these munitions in the hands of men who go floating around the country shooting people and maintaining a reign of terror.

Describing conditions in the coal fields, Marshal H. Musick, U.M.W.A., organizer and Baptist minister, said the coal companies completely control the region even to schools, hospitals, churches and municipal governments. Harlan miners make approximately \$75 a month, 15 per cent of which is immediately deducted by the company for company-owned dwellings and other charges. In spite of the Kentucky law which requires "check weighmen" at the tipples to weigh coal, Harlan miners in most mines are forced to take the company's word for it.

N. C. PROGRESSIVE COMM. TO DEFEND TEXTILE WORKERS

Organization of an all-inclusive civil rights group to defend workers' rights in the C.I.O. drive to organize textile will be the first campaign of the North Carolina Committee for Progressive Legislation, the committee declared.

Formed last month for the purpose of organizing all liberals and white-collar workers in defense of labor's right to organize and to back independent political action in North Carolina, the committee recently held a luncheon in Chapel Hill at which Cornelia Bryce Pinchot and E. L. Oliver, executive vice-president of Labor's Non-Partisan League were the main speakers.

BESSEMER LITERATURE LAW APPEALED TO SUPREME COURT

Following the decision of the Alabama Supreme Court in upholding the constitutionality of the Bessemer "seditious literature" ordinance, the International Labor Defense of Political Prisoners declared that they would appeal to the United States Supreme Court for a ruling on the law which curtails freedom of speech and press.

The ordinance was first declared unconstitutional by the Alabama Court of Appeals which ordered the release of Jack Barton, Communist organizer who was sentenced to 300 days on the chain gang for alleged violation of the law. The Alabama Supreme Court overruled the lower court.

SPINDLETOP FARM STRIKERS' CIVIL LIBERTIES VIOLATED

Seven of the most active workers in the Spindletop Farm strike conducted by the Lexington, Ky. Building Trades Council were indicted for "banding and confederating" and held under bonds ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,500. Homer C. Clay, London, Ky., attorney and state chairman of the Civil Liberties Union branded the case as an attack upon the right of labor to organize and strike.

A joint committee to defend the Spindletop strikers, composed of representatives of the Building Trades Council, Carpenters' Union, Common Laborers' Union, and the Workers Alliance, held a public mass meeting April 9, to mobilize public support for the strikers. Sam Caddy, president of District 20, U.M.W.A. and J. D. Presley, president of the Lexington Building Trades Council were among the speakers.

The defense committee called upon all labor and liberal groups to protest against this violation of civil liberties to King Swope, Circuit Court Judge, Lexington, Ky.

POLICEMAN STAPP FIRED BY CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Policeman P. L. Stapp's long record of beating innocent workers, especially Negroes, finally caught up with him last month when the Birmingham Civil Service Board found him guilty of "unwarranted assaults" on two North Birmingham residents. During the hearings which lasted a day and a half, Police Chief Luther Hollums testified that police records show that Stapp has killed seven men. The prosecuting attorney charged that Police Sergeant H. A. Stapp, brother of the fired officer, threatened several Negroes with death if they appeared to testify about the murder of other Negroes.

Now that P. L. Stapp has been fired from the police force it is not known whether T.C.I. or Republic Steel will make him a special deputy or whether he will become a plantation riding boss. His record of brutality makes him particularly fitted for any of these jobs.



BEN. ROBERT LA FOLLETTE
Civil Rights Investigator

Farm

UNION INTRODUCES SHARECROP CONTRACT

The Sharecroppers Union is introducing a Sharecrop Contract as a means of securing fair dealing with landlords in the plantation area.

The contract provides for cash advances to put in a crop, the right to gin and sell the sharecroppers' or tenants' share of the crop, the right to trade at any store, the right to written statements of accounts, the right to debt adjustment committees in case the cropper or tenant cannot pay the debt with two-thirds of his share of the crop, and the guarantee of no discrimination against union activity or membership.

These provisions are fundamental in securing independence and democratic rights on the land. The Resettlement Administration has claimed that most sharecroppers are not capable of managing their own farm. While this claim is mainly an alibi for not carrying on a larger program of landownership among landless cotton farmers, the Sharecrop Contract will go far to overcome this objection.

FARMERS "SIT-DOWN" ON HIGH FERTILIZER PRICE

Farmers in four Alabama counties are refusing to buy fertilizer at the present high prices the dealers are trying to force upon them. Showing their solidarity with progressive labor, they call it their "sit-down strike."

Last year Farmers' Union locals in these same counties forced the price of fertilizer down from \$5 to \$10 on the ton. This year the dealers ganged together and raised the price of fertilizer about \$5 per ton.

The farmer realizes a big saving when the fertilizer price goes down, and this is the reason the Farmers' Union members are cooperating for their mutual benefit. Cooperation of this kind is leading to the building of cooperatives to purchase farmers' supplies and put the middle-man's profit in their own pocket.

TEXAS FARM WORKERS ORGANIZE FAST

The Texas Agricultural Workers Organization Committee which has been following the efforts of Alabama farm wage workers to organize A. F. of L. federal unions with close interest, announced that applications for union membership are coming in at a rapid pace from all Southwest points. Southwestern agricultural workers are forced to work for miserable wages which range from 8 to 14 cents an hour.

FLA. FEDERATION STARTS ORGANIZING CITRUS WORKERS

The State Executive Board of the Florida Federation of Labor appointed Charles Silva, first vice-president, to head a committee which will organize all of Florida's 75,000 citrus, cannery, packinghouse and field workers are quickly responding to the union drive by sending in letters to the State Federation asking how to build the union.

A PAGE FOR SOUTHERN WOMEN

MARY CRAIK SPEED, EDITOR OF WOMEN'S PAGE

Last month we printed a letter from Mrs. Susan Pike of Montgomery, Ala. in which she asked how the public school system in Alabama could be called "free" when the common people have to pay a sales tax on everything they eat, wear and use in any way to support the schools. Space prevented us from answering last month, so here is our answer now.

The people of Alabama want education. They want more and better schools, more and better paid teachers. In this state education is called a "secondary charge of the State" which means that whatever money is left after the legislators, politicians, judges and so on are paid, is split up between the Education Department, Health Department and a number of other departments.

For a number of years an effort has been made to raise the Education Department to a primary charge of the State. But in the last regular session of the Legislature the politicians headed by Tom Knight defeated this bill. So Governor Graves called a special session of the legislature in December, saying the schools were in danger of closing and something had to be done.

We all know that the educational system is in a bad way and has been for a long time because it does not get enough money. And the politicians know that since the people of Alabama do want more education, it is always a good excuse for a new tax. Whenever they decide they want more graft

tional revenue for schools and enable the state, county and city governments to function adequately" and here is the catch "to relieve the General Fund of all such (educational) expenses."

This means that the Governor and the politicians will have the General Fund for their own uses while the Educational Fund depends on the sales tax. And it also means that our children are being educated at the cost of our living standard. Every thing beyond fat-back, sugar, coffee, flour and milk is in the luxury class and taxed by two per cent. Even turnip greens, if you buy them at a store are considered a luxury. For years we have been taught that soap, towels, tooth brushes and sheets were necessary for clean decent living, but now they are taxed as luxuries.

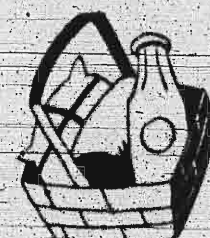
It means that when you buy a loaf of bread an invisible hand will remove one slice from the loaf, when you buy a sack of coal the same hand will take out a few lumps, from a can of syrup some will be poured off. Every time you buy meat you will get two per cent less, and so on right down the list of every thing that people buy in order to live.

The whole standard of our living is lowered. In spite of the great resentment against this robbery it has now become a law. It would not have been possible to put across a fraud like this if the poor people had the right to vote. We can not give in. We must organize stronger and fight for education for our children but not the cost of an standard of living.

Cooking Hints

In trying to make a little money go a long way in feeding the family, many mothers are apt to think that what ever is most filling is most nourishing. This is not true, and besides, everybody needs a change

of food and many different kinds of food because one kind has starches—such as potatoes, rice,



which the body needs for warmth and energy. But the body also needs the minerals that are found in tomatoes, cabbage, greens, carrots and onions, etc. to prevent pellagra. Meat and eggs and milk

are needed to build the bones strong and straight.

Beans and cow-peas are good food but they do not give what the doctors call a "well-balanced" diet. Try adding a 10 cent can of tomatoes and some slices of onion and a cup of cooked rice, seasoned with onion is good. Plain tomato juice is about as good for babies as orange juice and easier to get.

Now that fresh young turnips are with us, try cooking them a very short while, not more than 20 minutes, and without any porkmeal, or if you like them better with the fat meat, cook the meat first half an hour or longer and then add the greens and cook only 20 minutes. Cook string beans in exactly the same way, and never throw away the water that any vegetables have boiled in. Any, or all of it mixed together seasoned with onion and salt and pepper and noodles or rice, make a good soup.

Soup can be made in so many different ways, of so many different things and can be so nourishing that it makes a whole meal in itself and a "well-balanced" one too. We will discuss it much more in the future.

If any of our women readers has suggestions to make or wants advice, please write in to this page.



SOUTHERN WOMEN SALUTE HERNDON!

By GRACE LUMPKIN

(Miss Lumpkin, noted Southern writer, author of "To Make My Bread" and other novels, has written this especially for the Southern Worker.)

"At this time, when Fascism in Europe is trying to wipe out all the gains of independence and liberty, made by women, all women and especially those in the South, should

welcome the release of Herndon. For his release is a victory over a reaction that is the next to kin to Fascism.

"Southern women who have worked for Herndon's release feel the victory not only for themselves but for humanity. In the manner of Herndon himself, they receive this victory with quiet and firm determination to go on with the fight for human dignity and freedom."

it is "to save the schools." No wonder that it was the same old story when they tried to think up an excuse to put across the SALES TAX.

When the Legislators voted themselves \$40,000 for Christmas vacation at the same time that Montgomery County gave its teachers a payless vacation, they showed how much regard they had for education.

It is easy to see that "education" is only false bait by reading the Governor's call to revise revenue laws and provide addi-

LETTERS FROM PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH

Before He Drowns

Center, Texas
Editor, The Southern Worker:

I am writing a few lines about what I heard the other day when I was standing in a grocery store. A man came in and said to the groceryman, I want to get a bill of groceries. I moved a Negro on my place the other day and I want to get him something to eat. He hasn't got anything to eat.

Alright said the groceryman, what is first? A 24-pound sack of flour, the man answered. The groceryman asked him what grade. He asked for the very cheapest, and also a 4-pound carton of lard. The groceryman asked him if he wasn't going to get some baking powder. He said the Negro could do without that. The groceryman again asked him if he wasn't going to get the poor Negro some soda and baking powder to go in his bread. The landlord told the groceryman he was a "good" Negro and a dang good worker, but he didn't need any soda and baking powder.

This is how it is here in the Southern states. The landlord wanted baking powder and soda in his bread but there was so much greed and prejudice in his heart that



he didn't want his Negro worker to have any. I would to God that everyone who believes in the Lord's Word would read Malachi 2:10 where it reads, Have we not all one father? If not, one God created us. Why does every man deal treacherously against his brother. This is why we have so much relief. We poor people have no shelter, no land, no money and no way to get a home. Most all the landlords want wage hands because they can't work all their land themselves.

Something must be done for us poor people and right now. It's no way to save a man after he has drowned. You can print this letter if you want to because every word of it is the truth.

Henry Giles

Farmers of Tomorrow

Winston County, Ala.
Editor, The Southern Worker:

I am very glad to get to write for the "Southern Worker." I am a member of the Farmers Union, Local 367 in Winston County. Up here the farmers have won several victories such as getting families on Resettlement when the Supervisor had said these families could not get on it. We had to put up a strong fight to get the

Supervisor to cooperate with the poverty stricken farmers.

At one of the meetings of our Local of the Farmers Union, we elected a special Youth Committee to get a Youth Center started here. This committee is trying to get help from the Government through the



National Youth Administration. I am very sure that we will get it.

Another problem that we are interested in is the school problem. The grammar school has gone out and this is only April. They say that the reason is the government doesn't have enough money. But the government ought to have enough money to run the schools all year 'round from the

Postscript from the Editor

Dear Readers:

Last month the Southern Worker gained 1,000 new readers. One thousand more Southern workers and farmers will be better leaders and organizers because now they will know the facts about the struggle of the working class for a better life.

Our new readers come from the steel mills in Birmingham, the textile mills throughout the entire South, the farms and the rest of the common people. They are anxious to learn the truth about the great organizational drives now going on in the South, about the vital issues which confront them today, about the struggle to



gain a better life. There are thousands more like them, who, if they only had a chance to see the Southern Worker, would be just as anxious to subscribe.

It is up to you to see that they get that chance. Pass your copy of the magazine on to your friends. Mail us the names and addresses of your friends so that we can send them sample copies.

Fraternally,
The Editor.

taxes we farmers have to pay. We must get the schools started back.

We farm women are deeply concerned with these problems because our children come from the farms and belong to the farms. They are the farmers of tomorrow. I have to close now and get to my washing.

—Mrs. J. M.

They Didn't Know

Sand Springs, Okla.
Editor, The Southern Worker:

I am a member of the Sand Springs, Oklahoma local of the United Textile Workers. In the spring of 1935, after the company had violated our contract in every way, we struck the Commander Mills here 100 per cent. We had a swell mass picket line that kept every single scab out. Then a court issued an injunction against our picketing.

There, our strike was broken, and it shouldn't have been. Judge G. Ed Warren, then president of the State Federation of Labor, ordered us not to violate the injunction. Our own good horse-sense and the Communist Party told us to continue our picket line—but we were afraid of both. We know better now. We know that we



must depend on ourselves and those whose interests are only with the workers.

When we gave up striking, the company ran hundreds of scabs in the mill. Today the plant is running three full shifts with 750 workers. Most of these went in spite of our strike. We all called them names and swore we'd never touch those workers. This was the wrong thing for us to do.

This is why it was wrong. Those workers came from towns where there never was a union. They didn't know what a union was. They had families to feed and didn't realize the terrible thing they were doing in taking our jobs.

But now that they have been working in the mill for two years and many of them are beginning to see what we were doing and why. Now we must convince them that we in the union are ready to do everything we can to help them change the conditions in the Commander Mills. Commander Mills will again sign a contract with the union—a contract better than ever before.

John Taylor



"The 'red-scare' is being used to split the steel workers. That goes without saying. It's an old trick. We have stated, in reply, that there are no 'isms' connected with this fight—that it is an economic fight for collective bargaining—and through that toward higher wages and lower hours in the steel industry. But we are also making it clear that we are seeking and accepting the aid of all groups in this struggle—regardless of their political philosophy—so long as they are concerned with helping preserve democratic rights. That kind of joint endeavor is necessary in every fight of labor."

—Philip Murray,
Chairman, Steel Workers Organizing Committee

"ONE of our greatest pitfalls has been the creation of breaks in our ranks and dissension among the workers because of differences of opinion over issues which have nothing to do with the organization of the union. Today, we will be charged with disruption if we choose to discriminate against present or potential union members because of differences over political, religious or other incidental beliefs. This is the policy of the Committee for Industrial Organization and this is the policy of the United Textile Workers."

—Francis Gorman,
President, United Textile Workers Union

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