

# SOUTHERN WORKER

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## The Southern Worker

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Jim Allen, Managing Editor  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Box 1653

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### Smash The Lynching Campaign

One of the most horrible and ghastly lynchings in all the bestial annals of ruling class violence occurred last Thursday in Salisbury, Maryland. Mack Williams, a Negro worker, had offended his boss by daring to protest against his wages being stolen. The slave-driving boss, Daniel J. Elliott, replied by shooting the worker. Although severely wounded the Negro was able to grapple with the murderous boss and in the scuffle the boss was fatally shot.

Because he refused to stand still and be shot to death by the labor exploiter and petty thief, Elliott, the mill bosses and business men organized a mob and, after savagely torturing the wounded Negro, lynched him. The lynching was accompanied, as usual, by a campaign of terror against the entire Negro working class population. The details of the monstrous crime at Salisbury are published elsewhere in the SOUTHERN WORKER.

What must be impressed upon all workers is that the victim of this latest lynching outrage, Mack Williams, was shot and hanged and burned because he dared to protest against a vicious practice of stealing wages from all workers in the box factory, black and white. He died for the entire working class, died defending his fellow workers in the box factory where he worked. The thieving bosses, by their fiendish act of lynching Williams, hope to terrorize all workers so no one will dare again protest against any crime the bosses care to commit against them.

The practice of lynching, which is a ruling class institution in the South (and is frequently resorted to in the North) is not decreasing, as the prostitutes of the Southern Commission for the Study of Lynching have said. On the contrary, lynching is increasing. It is one of the methods used by the ruling class in its efforts to continue to impose starvation and terror upon the whole working class. The lynch ruling class of the South tries in every way to keep the working class divided along color lines, by framing up Negroes on the filthy and lying pretext of "protecting white womanhood." That is the lie being used to railroad the Scottsboro boys to the electric chair. That was and is the pretext in the legal lynching attempt against Willie Peterson, before and since the shots from Dent Williams' revolver in the Birmingham courthouse failed to kill him.

The only reason the reptile press did not try to claim that the boss, Elliott, died "defending white womanhood" is because there was no woman present to pose as the intended victim. Hence not even the paid liars of the capitalist press could conceal the fact that this latest lynching arose out of a question of Elliott stealing wages from workers in his slave pen that he calls a box factory.

The Negro and white workers at Elliott's factory should reply at once to this outrage against their fellow-worker by organizing and striking to demand decent wages, shorter hours and the immediate abolition of all fines on any pretext whatsoever. In every factory, shop, mine or mill there are many causes for complaint because of bad working conditions, speedup, fines for alleged spoiled work, all sorts of petty rules that force workers to be on the job so many minutes before starting time, etc. They way to begin to fight against such things is by the workers holding a meeting in the place of work, discussing their conditions and electing grievance committees to go to the bosses and demand better treatment. In connection with this work must also proceed the organization of the workers into unions. The grievances in each individual place of work should be connected up with general demands for the given industry, such as a living wage, shorter hours, etc. Questions of when and how to strike should be taken up and definite preparations made for united action.

In many industries in the South the workers are today striving to find some form of organization that will enable them to put up a fight against the bosses. This the bosses know. That is why there is such a vicious drive against us and why lynch violence is increasing. Our reply must be organization and struggle against wage cuts, speed-up, lengthening of hours. All workers, black and white, organized and unorganized, employed and unemployed, should be drawn into the fight. Besides the organization in the shops, those workers who are still employed should join hands with the unemployed, help build the Unemployed Councils and fight for immediate winter relief, for full wages for those out of work. In short, the workers in industry can deliver heavy blows against the bosses and their lynch terror by organizing and fighting for elementary demands.

But that alone is not sufficient. There must be the most relentless struggle carried on against lynching and a fight made in the South for free speech, free press, the right to assemble, the right to organize and strike, the right to bear arms against lynch mobs. This fight must be conducted in the industries, on the land among the farmers and croppers, on the streets, in all unions, even the most reactionary American Federation of Labor unions.

In connection with the fight against lynching must also proceed the building up of Workers' Self-Defense Corps on a broad basis in all industries, in the ranks of the unemployed, on the land. These Defense Corps must be able to fight against lynching agitation in the work places, expose and drive out bosses' spies, protect meetings from police or other boss class attacks and defend with all their might any intended victims of lynch mobs. Let the white-livered cowards who band together in lynch mobs know that every lynching attempt will meet with determined resistance on the part of the masses of workers and farmers and we will have gone a long way toward the crushing of this practice.

Lynching can be stopped and must be stopped by the mass power of the workers—white and black.

## MAYOR EVADES HUNGER MEET

(By a Worker Correspondent)  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.—A packed hall of young workers and children was the answer to the starvation system of Mayor Lambeth and the Charlotte City Administration at the Youth Hunger Hearing held at the Worker's Hall. An open letter sent to the Mayor and published in the local papers challenging him and his administration to appear and defend themselves against the accusation of starving the unemployed youth of Charlotte and refusing relief, resulted in the Mayor's hurried departure from the city.

The Open Trial, a triumphant success for the young workers, was marked by enthusiasm and an expression of determination to struggle against the existing conditions. The local notorious watch-dog of the Charlotte bosses, Inspector Littlejohn, followed by three other police thugs, sat throughout the entire proceedings attempting to bull-doze the white and Negro workers who, in their testimony, exposed conditions of hunger imposed upon the young workers by the boss class of Charlotte and carried through by the City Government.

A young Negro girl worker testified how, in her neighborhood, the police have started a reign of terror against young Negro workers, arresting and beating them whenever an opportunity shows itself. At this moment a young Negro girl, 14 months of age, a member of the Y.C.L., is held in the boss dungeon for nine days without trial on the word of a white boss man that she had stolen some money from him. They refuse to give her a trial saying that they will hold her incarcerated until she admits the theft.

White children of textile workers testified how they went to school hungry and were forced to do without books because they could not buy any.

Eunice Broadway, eleven years old, daughter of a textile worker, told of her father working 12 hours each day, received only one dollar. She is forced to go without shoes and must go to school often without eating. It is all her father could do to pay rent and buy the few necessities to keep them alive.

Elliott Phillips, young Negro worker, testified how he was turned down by the Associated Charities after being out of work six months, on the excuse of "not married." Ralph Garrett another young Negro worker, stated how he was sent on a job by the Associated Charities to cut cordwood and how after working two ten-hour days, he received a basket of groceries. He can only get two days work a week. Young workers pointed out how the Associated Charities received a haul of \$155,000 from the Community Chest and how not a cent of this is given for actual relief of the unemployed.

At the opening of the trial, Littlejohn and his fellow lickspittles were challenged to substitute for the Mayor in defense of the hunger system of Charlotte, but they kept silent.

Charlie, in exposing the miserable conditions of the unemployed youth, also pointed out and convinced every worker in the hall of the great need for struggle against the bosses' system as the only guarantee for securing cash relief. Every one present pledged to support the Hunger March to Washington.

Help the Southern Worker weather the storm. Send donations to Box 1653, Chattanooga, Tenn.

## Miners' Union Protests Sell-Out Of Lawrence Textile Strikers

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Under the signature of Frank Borich, national secretary of the National Miners' Union, the National Board sent out a resolution "protesting against the outrageous betrayal of the great Lawrence strike by the leaders of the United Textile Workers."

**Saw Betrayal Coming**  
"It was clear to us from the beginning" declared the National Board, "the A. F. of L. was waiting for a favorable opportunity to stab the strike in the back. In the coal industry, have had similar bitter experience with the A. F. of L. over a course of years. In our recent great strike of 40,000 against starvation conditions the United Mine Workers affiliated with the A. F. of L., engaged in strike-breaking in the most open and shameless manner. They signed agreements with the companies for scales below those prevailing when the strike began. They recruited scabs from all over the country, the striking miners repudiating them. They were helped openly by the operators, the government, the press, etc., all under the slogan of 'Let's rebuild the U. M. W. of A.'"

**Further Cut Wages**  
"And after the strike they took the lead in further cutting of wages in collaboration with the bosses. In

## New Magazine Will Give Lead to Workers in Class Struggle

The contents of the very first issue of the new 32-page "Labor Unity" magazine will almost certainly bring about a wide discussion. For the January number which will be off the press on or about the 15th of December, will contain directive articles by such noted leaders of the revolutionary labor movement as Wm. Z. Foster, Secretary of the Trade Union Unity League, on the lessons and the shortcomings in the Lawrence strike, by Frank Borich, Secretary of the National Miners' Union on the Kentucky situation, by Bill Dunne, on the Boston Longshoremen's strike.

The Steel Trust is preparing right at this moment to make a second wage cut on 1,000,000 steel workers.

The long-planned attack on the wages of the 1,500,000 workers of railroads of the country has been started by the bosses, with the aid of the A. F. of L. and Big Four Brotherhood misleaders. Otto Wangerin, secretary of the National Railroad Industrial League, will write on the railroad industry.

When the new "Labor Unity" magazine goes to press, the National Hunger Marchers will just be ar-

## Police Murderer Is Praised by Coroner

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Policeman P. L. Stapp who, on Saturday night, shot and killed Tony Elarby, a Negro worker, was praised by the coroner's (lynch gang) jury, which returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide." This is the 79th killing of Negroes since the two society women were killed in "Lovers Lane" here by some white plutocrats. Willie Peterson is in jail charged falsely with the murders of the two women.

Policeman Stapp and other policemen reported that Elarby was shot when police raided a house at Twenty-first street and Fourteenth avenue, south. A number of Negroes were visiting at the house and the police decided to break up the gathering, because it might be a meeting dis-

West Virginia they signed agreements in Scotts Run, cutting wages from 30 to 22 cents for a ton, which meant far lower rates than paid by any of the adjacent open shop mines.

**Must Fight Labor Fakers**  
The National Board of the Miners' Union says the workers must learn that the leaders of the A. F. of L. are no less our enemies than are the bosses themselves and must be relentlessly fought.

"We miners are building our own union, the National Miners' Union, affiliated with the Trade Union Unity League. The textile workers should build the National Textile Workers' Union and fight for a united front of all the workers in the industry."

"We pledge you our maximum support in the building of your union, the National Textile Workers' Union."

## Unemployed Councils Continue to Fight Starvation

Countless thousands of workers, employed and unemployed, in big demonstrations are greeting the Hunger Marchers on their return from Washington. The more than 1,600 delegates who marched to Washington as they left the cities and towns from which they were elected, become organizers of the great national demonstrations being prepared for February 4th.

**A Living, Not Charity**  
The Unemployed Councils which organized and led the great Hunger March, are intensifying the drive all along the line. Everywhere the fight against the charity fakers is going forward with redoubled energy and demands made for immediate relief in the cities, to be administered by the professional charity-monsters, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and other agencies of starvation, but by workers' committees. The struggle against evictions will be increased and a mass struggle for food, clothing, medical aid for workers families, especially for children, who are today going to school half naked, hungry and sick from hunger diseases.

No worker active in building the revolutionary unions and leagues, no class conscious worker, can afford to be without the new monthly LABOR UNITY magazine.

Subscription rates are \$1.00 per year and 50 cents for six months. Subscription with cash, should be sent to LABOR UNITY, room 415, 2 West Fifteenth street, New York.

## Rail Workers Fewest In Twenty Years

According to the Interstate Commerce Commission, the number of workers employed on the railroads is the lowest for many years. There are but 1,254,280 employees on all the railroads in the United States. This includes clerical workers, railroad telegraphers, dispatchers, telephone operators, and those employed in management, besides the executives, officials, staff assistants, transportation, yard employees, yard masters, maintenance of way workers, etc. The largest number on the railway payrolls was 2,022,832 in 1920.

Discussing labor conditions and unemployment. Police charge that a game was in progress.

## Issue Harlan Strike Call For Jan. 1

### UNEMPLOYMENT COUNCILS CONTINUE TO FIGHT STARVATION

## Marchers Return from Journey To Washington to Organize for National Feb. 4 Demonstrations

Countless thousands of workers, employed and unemployed, in big demonstrations are greeting the Hunger Marchers on their return from Washington. The more than 1,600 delegates who marched to Washington as they left the cities and towns from which they were elected, become organizers of the great national demonstrations being prepared for February 4th.

The fight for immediate winter relief goes on. The demands for \$150 for every worker who is unemployed and \$50 for each dependent is being great masses of the 12,000,000 unemployed in the United States to a determined fight against starvation plan of Hoover, Gifford Young and the rest of the gang to put over the Community Relief fakes.

**Washington's Alarm**  
At the same time that the Washington government through its spokesman, Dawes, approves the occupation of Manchuria as a base from which to help in the imperialist crushing of the growing revolutionary movement in China and from which to wage a war of intervention against the Soviet Union, it is quite alarmed at another development. That is the danger that Japan's seizure of Chinchow to the South may result in such mass fury among the Chinese masses that it will raise to a higher stage the movement toward driving out all the imperialists and their agents that the Wall Street backed Kuomintang government of Chiang Kai Shek will be smashed.

## Washington An Armed Camp

Hoover, the hunger president, his cabinet and all the politicians of all shades in both houses of Congress, Frank behind White House and capitol walls, while thousands of police, soldiers, marines and assorted thugs and gunmen armed with machine guns, revolvers, gas bombs, sawed-off shotguns, prevented the unarmed Hunger Marchers from entering and representing their demands when Congress convened. These capitalist lackeys, all engaged in upholding the Hoover regime of Wall Street and its Hoover government, dared not attempt to reply to the demands of the 12,000,000 unemployed. To attempt to reply would have exposed out of their own mouths the whole cynical, murderous fake of the Hoover-Gifford Community Chest starvation plan. Life itself, the increasing hunger and misery of the workers and farmers, the growing determination

## Fight for Immediate Winter Unemployed Relief!

of the impoverished masses to fight against starvation, has already exposed the fraud of "voluntary local relief." Hoover and the other political lackeys of Wall Street could not answer with words the demands of the representatives of the unemployed, could not reply to hungry workers in words. Their only reply was that to which capitalism always resorts—armed force.

Such has been and is the reply of the court-room, amidst lynch mob every despotic ruling class. It is the only language the ruling class really understands. As against this there must and will continue the mobilization of the workers and farmers for mass struggle—a struggle that today holds the promise of being able to compel the capitalist class to give up some of its stolen wealth and to plan. Life itself, the increasing hunger and misery of the workers and farmers, the growing determination

## JAPAN BANDIT RAIDS UPHELD BY LEAGUE, U.S.

A dispatch from Paris shows that Dawes, the U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, now "observing" the League of Nations sessions has approved the League resolutions which gives Japan occupation of Manchuria. The League "bloc" of nations—France, England Japan—which actually instigated the Japanese armed attack on Manchuria and is preparing for an armed attack against the Soviet Union—has the full approval of the notorious fascist, Dawes, who is and has been for years one of the principals of the House of Morgan imperialist bandit gang.

**New Northern Drive**  
The announcement from Paris is made at the same time Japan is reported to have launched a new drive northward—which means further movement and concentration of military forces toward the Soviet border. This is accompanied by a new outburst of lying against the Soviet Union.

**Washington's Alarm**  
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Wide-spread anti-imperialist activities are reported from all over China and have reached such alarming proportions that the Canton government (under another branch of the Kuomintang) which is a tool of Japanese and British imperialism has been forced to make a gesture of sending troops against the Japanese.

The Japanese, Chinese and Korean Communists are winning great masses of workers to a revolutionary struggle against the imperialist bandits.

The workers in the big imperialist countries, particularly the United States, must be made to realize that we are face to face with a war of intervention against the Chinese revolution and against the Soviet Union and we must wage a relentless struggle to defeat the war-mongers.

Order a bundle of SOUTHERN WORKERS and help line up your fellow workers for a struggle against the Wall Street Hunger regime.

## General Strike is Prepared to Defeat Starvation Rule and Drive Out Bosses' Gun Thugs

The District Convention of the National Miners' Union, held at Pineville, Kentucky, last Sunday voted for a strike January 1st. Such a strike will embrace Harlan and Bell counties and the Tennessee mines.

Representatives from practically every mine in Southeastern Kentucky were present, and many of the miners, in speaking of the hunger conditions, said that under no circumstances would the men go back until the thugs and gun-men are driven from the coal fields.

**List General Demands**  
General demands on which all the miners will strike were approved, after the committee reports. These demands are:  
Wages: \$4.80 a day for top day men; \$4.40 a day for helpers, \$3.50 unclassified labor.  
Enforcement of the 8-hour day.  
Re-employment of blacklisted miners.  
Withdrawal of armed forces.  
Release of all miners in prison for labor activities.

**Ready for Fight**  
Speakers from the Harlan and Bell county mines reported that the organization was being tightened up in their mines and that during the two weeks until January 1st final preparations would be made. There was no doubt that the overwhelming majority of the miners are ready to fight against the awful conditions imposed by the mine owners' hunger regime.

**National Officials Present**  
Frank Borich and Vincent Kamenovitch, leaders of the National Miners' Union, were present and both made speeches, pointing out the experience of other strikes and emphasizing the necessity of determined, united action.

Afred Wagonknecht, secretary of the Workers' International Relief, stated that every effort would be made to furnish food and clothing while the Harlan and Bell county miners fight against starvation and terror.

Ike Hawkins, Negro leader of the National Miners' Union urged the men to close ranks and fight.

**Anticipate Injunctions**  
Some of the speakers pointed out that one of the strike-breaking methods of the bosses was to issue injunctions declaring the strike illegal. Such a move on the part of the bosses must be met with wholesale defiance. No striker should pay any attention to any injunction that ever was or ever will be issued by a capitalist court. Mass violation of injunctions must always be the reply of workers to the injunction judges.

**Local Miners Speak**  
The convention was opened by Will Meeks of Arjay, who called the meeting to order and introduced the speakers. Finlay Donaldson urged the convention to take strike action and told the miners they should go out (Continued On Page Three)

Workers in every industry! Build Committees of Action to organize fights against wage-cuts, speed-up



