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# THE SOUTHERN WORKER

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## Drive To Organize Steel Begins

### T. C. I. Ore Miners Strike Against Layoff, Speed-up

BESSEMER, Ala.—All of the T. C. I. ore mines along the ridge of Red Mountain are closed down as the miners continue their strike against the Company's new plan of work. Twenty-one hundred union miners, members of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, walked out June 1 when the plan was to go into effect.

The Tennessee Company's new plan of work provides for the laying off of 500 miners, changes the wage system from an hourly rate to a tonnage rate, and introduces the speed-up by setting a production standard for each crew of miners. Ore miners whose work is more dangerous than any other kind of mining, suffer a high rate of death and injury. The speed-up increases the danger of accident.

Company deputies and thugs have carried on a campaign of provocation in the mine territory. Their purpose is to discredit the union miners and break the strike spirit. Ambush shooting along the roads to Muscoda and Ishkooda mines has been named the work of these outfits and private detective agencies, who create an atmosphere of terror in order to sell their "protection" to the company.

**Union Miner Beaten**  
Pete Casey, a Negro union miner, was beaten by company deputies who waylaid him along the road that leads from Brown's Station to Wenonah mine. They searched him and, finding a union card in his pocket, kicked and beat him brutally. Richard Holt, another union miner, is in a serious condition at Fairfield Hospital. He was shot by deputies at Muscoda mine.

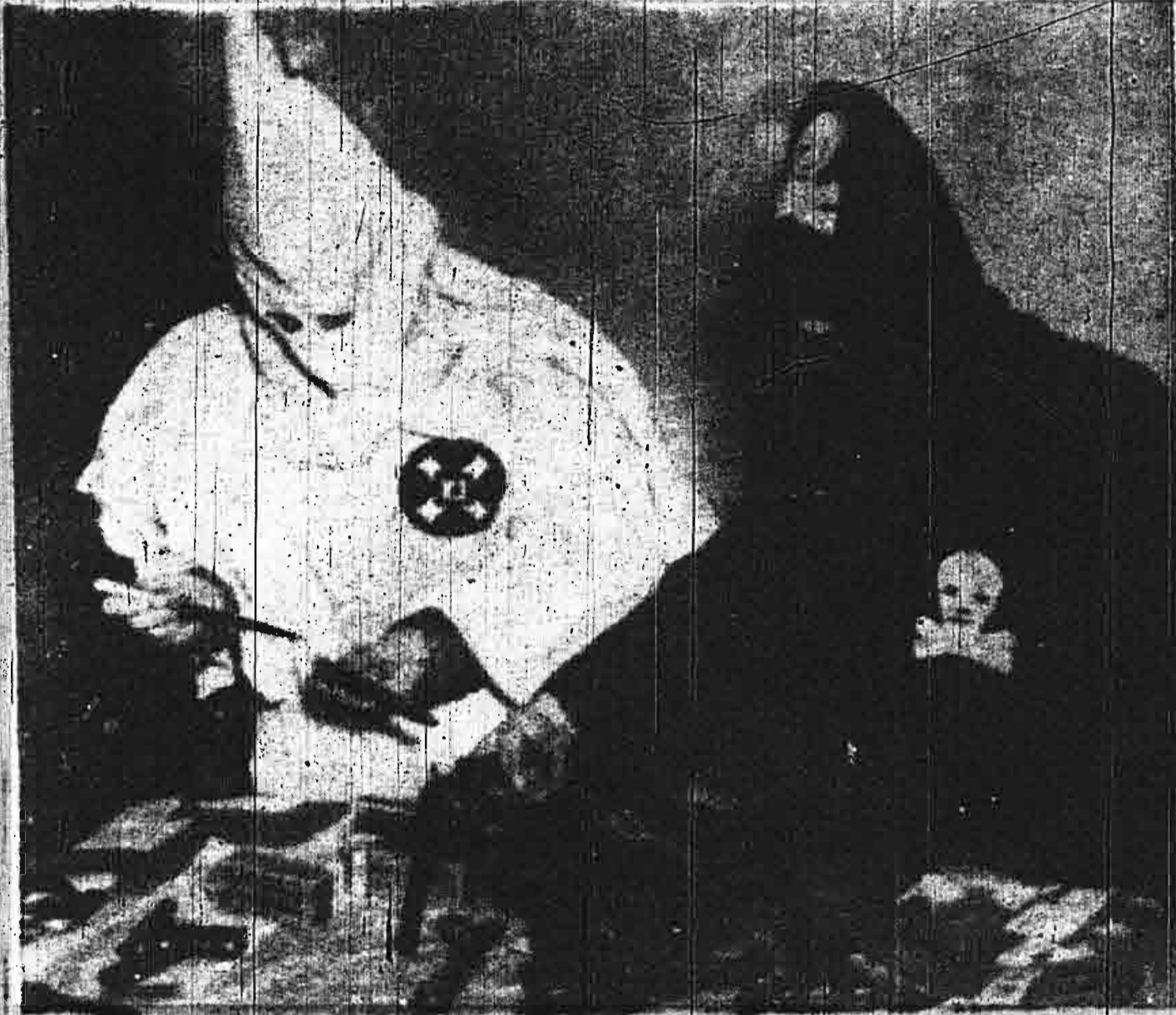
Union officials announce that they have drafted a substitute plan of work and submitted it to the T. C. I. officials. The plan is an offer of settlement of the strike.

John L. Perry, president of the Tennessee Company, has made no further statements since he said T. C. I. could keep its ore mines shut down for 12 months and not feel it. This boast is given the lie by the action of the company in trying to break the strike.

The company union whose ranks are very weak, has proven a loss to T. C. I. There are not enough men in the "Poppy" union to keep the ore mines operating either full time or part.

Details of the plan drafted by union officials and approved by state and federal mediators have not been made public to the membership of the Union.

TWIN BROTHERS



The Ku Klux Klan and the Black Legion robes are shown above. Just as the Klan serves the interests of people, the Legion is an anti-labor instrument in the hands of big industrialists in northern states.

### Poor Farmers Face Ruin As Result of Drouth

With no real rainfall predicted for the near future, farmers of the Southeastern states are watching their crops die in the dry fields. A limited rainfall last week failed to make a real break in the \$100,000,000 drouth.

The danger of forest fires grows greater. Already flames have destroyed portions of timberlands in Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. Elmer Doyal, Georgia forester, said the menace of underground fires such as destroyed pines in Georgia in 1923 was very serious. Peat beds, for instance, would burn for days, once they were ignited, unless drenched by rain or trenching of the area.

No provisions for the stricken poor farmers who depend on their crops to subsist through the year, has been made either by state or federal governments. The danger of famine becomes acute to thousands dependent upon the produce of their fields for table food as well as income.

### PRISONER BEATEN

COLUMBUS, Ga.—The treatment of charging prisoners in Georgia was further exposed by J. Louis Fandy, a country truck driver here who saw a life-terminator brutally beaten by the warden.

### Night Riders Charged With Death of Worker

DETROIT, Mich. — Thirteen members of the Black Legion have been charged with the kidnapping and murder of Charles A. Poole, a young W. P. A. worker. The discovery and exposure of this crime and the murderers has opened up a mire of murder and torture conducted by a group of men who carry out the orders of William Randolph Hearst, The Liberty League and the automobile magnates of this area.

The Black Legion, which is an outgrowth of the Ku Klux Klan, has the same fine ambition as the Klan—to wipe out the trade unions and persecute citizens because of their race, religion, and political beliefs.

Charles A. Poole's body was found riddled with bullets by a roadway. Dayton Dean, one of the Legion, has confessed to being the executioner of Poole, whom the night riders had decided "knew too much."

### Many Murders

Poole's death is only one of the many now attributed to the Black Legion, whose ranks include policemen and state guards, and whose backers are identified as Republicans and Democratic leaders. Among the trade unionists murdered by the Black Legion in Detroit were George Marchak and John L. Brisk. Marchak was also

(Continued on Page 3)

### Eighteen Held on Herndon Law in Atlanta Jail

LATE NEWS FLASH: The Chattanooga Trades and Labor Council unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Georgia Insurrection Law. The resolution was modeled after the resolution passed by the A. F. of L. at its 55th convention. It was forwarded to the Georgia Federation of Labor and to the Atlanta Central Trades Council.

ATLANTA—Eighteen workers in Georgia, arrested under the Herndon Insurrection law, face 20 years on the chain gang or death if convicted. They were arrested the night of June 28 when Atlanta police kicked down the door of a private home on Southeast Violet street and interrupted a peaceful gathering. When the people in the house asked to see a warrant and spoke of their constitutional rights the cops said, "What the hell do we care about the Constitution in Georgia?"

The defendants were first held for investigation, then bound over to the Grand Jury for indictment under the "inciting to insurrection law." This law, which was held unconstitutional by Judge Hugh Dorsey in the Angelo Herndon case, was condemned in a resolution passed at the 55th Convention of the American Federation of Labor. All of the eighteen persons are also charged with disorderly conduct. Their bonds were set at 5000 dollars apiece, but later reduced to 500 dollars.

### Abused in Jail

Mrs. Bonnie Mae Wilson, one of the defendants, was abused in the jail and locked in solitary confinement when she refused to be photographed and fingerprinted.

The eighteen persons arrested in the raid include Jack Palmer, Louise Smith, Brude Godwin, Bonnie Mae Wilson, Mary Evans, Dora Evans, Edith Washburn, Max Singer, Eula Jackson, Carrie Jackson, Martha Harris, Ruby Yarbrough, L. B. Browning, Charlie Jackson, Andrew Griggs and Lonnie Miles.

All workers and liberals are urged to take part in the fight to save these men and women from the Georgia chain gang. The International Labor Defense, conducting their defense, urges support—both financial and by protest. Funds should be rushed to the I. L. D., 50 East 11th Street, New York City. Protests should be sent to Solicitor General John A. Boykin and to Governor Eugene Talmadge, Atlanta, Ga.

### Steel Union to Follow C. I. O. Leadership

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The steel drive is to begin this summer. The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers has accepted the proposal of the Committee for Industrial Organization for a joint organization campaign in steel.

While John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers and chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, made the announcement of the A. A.'s acceptance, William Green, president of the A. F. of L. hastened to state that the Executive Council will not support the drive in steel. Green has made every attempt to keep the Amalgamated from accepting the C. I. O.'s invitation to organize on an industrial basis. Voicing the wishes of the reactionary executive council, Green has persistently fought to make the steel workers cling to the old union form of organization.

The 9 healthy industrial unions forming the Committee for Industrial Organization have succeeded in making the steel workers conscious of the necessity of organizing on an industrial scale. The A. A. has entered into an agreement with the C. I. O., which formally affiliates them with that body, provides for a Steel Workers Organizing Committee and accepts the \$500,000 offered by the C. I. O. for the campaign.

### Union Furnace Men Acquitted of Frame-Up

BIRMINGHAM (Continued from Page 1)

ings and Ham Johnson, union furnace workers, were freed of dynamiting charges in Judge Russell McElroy's court here when the star witness for the state broke down and said his testimony was a lie. Catchings and Johnson were arrested during the strike at East Thomas Furnace (Republic Steel) in the spring of 1934. They were charged with dynamiting the home of Frank McDaniel, a scab.

The case of Catchings and Johnson is the 23d to grow out of the 1934 strike. The strike followed the organization of the furnace workers into a local of the Mine, Mill and Smelters Union. Mr. McDuff, of the McDuff Detective Agency, took an active part in carrying out the bombing frame-ups against the union men.

## TRADE UNION TOPICS

By NED TRUE

**B**IG Business, especially Big Business in the South, spends a lot of time trying to convince folks that Communists "stir up hatred between the races."

We Communists answer this charge very patiently, explaining that our job is to build BROTHERHOOD between the races by creating unity between the white and Negro workers, especially among the workers and farmers and middle classes, especially in the trade unions. We work for PEACE on the only basis on which peace and unity are possible, equal rights for the Negro and a common struggle for the better things of life for the entire common people, white and black.

White workers must realize that the unions must organize the Negro workers, not only because they make good union men, but also because otherwise the bosses will use the Negroes as scabs. In the unions the Negroes must be treated like human beings, or they will not stay there and it's a darn sure thing you cannot blame them for that. We say the Negroes must be given the right to vote so that they may participate fully in the political struggle of the common people for a better life. Karl Marx said that Labor in a white skin will never be free so long as Labor in a black skin is in chains. And that was never more true than it is today when the Liberty League and the publisher, Hearst, and all their gang of mill owners, mine operators and landlords are trying to put across a fascist government. One of the main tactics of these moneyed beasts is to stir up hatred and prejudice among whites against Negroes. They play upon this note constantly so that they can divide the forces of the common people and separately crush both white and Negro.

In Birmingham we are having a new illustration of this filthy, vicious tactic. It is being used by the most reactionary wing of the labor movement, headed by John W. Altman, and it is aimed at DESTROYING THE ALABAMA LABOR MOVEMENT by stirring up and appealing to race prejudice.

**A**LTMAN was for many years the elected lawyer of the Federation and always lined up with the reactionary groups. At the Florence convention the Federation voted to put the power to hire a lawyer in the hands of the executive committee rather than to elect him from the floor. This was a wise move and is followed in every state that we know anything about. But Altman, who supports Huddleston for congress, knew that his days were numbered and therefore resigned. This was all for the good. The Alabama Federation certainly wants to have no truck with Huddleston, that tool of the Power Trust, nor any of his pals. Altman would have to choose between the Power Trust or Organized Labor. He chose the Power Trust and Huddleston, and that was that.

But neither Altman nor Huddleston were willing to leave it at that. They gave for the Power Trust and the big corporations is their hatred of

## DOWN IN DIXIE



**T**HE WPA workers of the South make less than anywhere else in the country. The worker in the picture gets \$19 a month. He lives in a broken-down shack. His wife and children are hungry and sick. They don't get enough to eat to make them strong.

But others beside the project workers and their families are affected by the \$19-\$33 a month WPA wage scale. The big bosses of the South use it as a club to keep wages of miners, textile workers and all other workers, lower than anywhere else in the country. Big manufacturers from the east are coming South to open factories here because labor is so cheap. Labor is cheap in the south because the workers are not organized to fight the low wage scale. Until they build strong unions they can expect only long hours, starvation pay and miserable conditions under which to work. When the workers of the South organize and build real unions, they will then have a club to hold over the bosses — the strong weapon of organized labor.

the progressive movement developing within the Alabama Federation. Thereupon they have poured forth the most nauseating, stinking acrimonious stream of lies, slanders and filth which we have ever heard.

They center their attack on Bill Mitch, president of the state federation and district president of the United Miners. They call him a carpet bagger because he was born in another part of the United States (Indiana). They attack Walter Jones, Negro vice president of the Miners and pretend to great horror because Jones dared to take the floor at the convention. They circulate photographs of the convention delegates to "prove" that there were Negroes present.

**N**OW we have differed many times with Brother Mitch and have criticized certain of his policies. We attacked Brother Jones in this paper no longer ago than last month for acting as an accomplice of Red-Baiter Cowherd. We intend to criticize both Mitch and Jones whenever we think their policies do not coincide with the best interests of the workers.

At this very moment, however, we must point out that Mitch and Jones are being attacked by the ENEMIES of organized labor. They are being attacked because they stand for organizing the unorganized, for organizing the Negro workers, and for industrial unionism. They are being attacked because they wish to defeat that open tool of the power companies, George Huddleston.

Organized labor must rally to the support of William Mitch and these progressive policies. They should realize that the reactionary

power and coal interests are, through the attack on Mitch, aiming at the entire Alabama labor movement.

The attacks on these enemies should be answered, not by slowing down in organizing Negroes, but by increased solidarity between white and Negro workers. Not by withdrawing trade union rights to organized Negroes but by a struggle to win the broadest equality within the unions for the Negroes. Walter Jones was attacked by Altman for saying:

"In announcing my candidacy for the office of the National Board of the UMWA, I stood on my constitutional rights as a member of the UMW, which tells me that I am entitled to rights and privileges as any other man."

We have our quarrel with Brother Jones, but it is not because of such statements as this. We honor him for that and we honor the miners of the UMW who so framed their constitution that there should be no discrimination against workers because of color. Negro trade unionists, together with white trade unionists, must fight for these rights in every union.

**W**HITE workers who really have the good of their union at heart and who know that the good things of life can come only through their organized activity as a part of the Labor movement will not be disturbed at the "danger" which Altman talks about. They will know that the only way to have a Labor movement in Alabama strong enough to protect them against the attacks of the Steel Trust, the coal operators, and the mill owners is by organizing solidly, white and Negro. Those

## 2 Scottsboro Boys Face Murder Court

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.**— Secretly indicted on charges of assault with intent to commit murder, Roy Wright and Ozie Powell, two of the Scottsboro boys, face trial in connection with the attempted lynching of Powell by Deputy Sheriff Sandlin of Decatur, Ala. Sandlin brutally shot Ozie Powell when he and another deputy were returning the boys from Decatur to Birmingham in a car. No trial date has been set for the boys whom Sandlin tried to claim attacked him in the car.

The information about the indictment was gotten from a book, "Scottsboro, The Firebrand of Communism." It was written by Files Crenshaw, Montgomery lawyer, and Kenneth A. Miller, former newspaper.

who say differently speak with the tongue of the corporations, with voice of the enemies of Labor.

And incidentally, our defense of Mitch is not to be taken as approval for his support to Luther Patrick. Mr. Patrick is no friend of labor. He is just another Democratic, capitalistic politician. The way to beat Huddleston and get a real Labor man into Congress is to build a Farmer Labor Party in Alabama and nominate and vote for a real Labor candidate.

## 90 Strikers Are Arrested In S. Carolina

**SPARTANBURG, S. C.**— More than 90 strikers have been arrested here for walking in the vicinity of the Spartan Mills. No parking is allowed at the mill. The highway in front of the mill has been closed by steel cables several blocks away. Police and state deputies guard all approaches.

More than 2,500 textile workers are on strike in South Carolina. In Gaffney, factory of the same mills are completely closed down and are surrounded by large blocks of lines.

The strikers are the workers answer to the mill owners' attempt to increase the number of hours per week without increasing wages and with actual cuts in some cases.

## Meat Cutters Union Meets In Memphis

**MEMPHIS**— Preparation for the convention of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America are being rushed here. The convention is scheduled to begin June 8. It is the first time the Meat Cutters Union has had a convention in 4 years.

The main issues which progressives will bring before the delegates are the formation of a Farmer-Labor party, industrial unionism and the organization of Negroes. Many Negroes now work in the packing houses, but until now no effort has been made to bring them into the union, or to break down the race barriers dividing the workers.

Progressives will also demand a more enlightened policy and more democratic leadership. Improper leadership has lost more than half of the 70,000 membership gained during the NRA period.

## Cheap Labor Attracts Big Mill Owners

**CHATTANOOGA**— The cheap and unskilled labor advertised by Chambers of Commerce in the South has caught the fancy of several more Eastern manufacturers, who are reported making plans to settle their industries in Tennessee.

At Rockwood, scene of a militant hosiery workers' strike, a new textile mill is reported ready to locate.

The 10-hour day, introduced by the Rockwood Hosiery Mill, proves an enticement to eastern manufacturers. It is against the 10-hour day that the hosiery workers in Rockwood are striking.

In Daisy, Tenn., an undisclosed eastern firm is preparing to establish a rayon manufacturing and dyeing plant.

# Religious Group Persecuted In Georgia

## Cops and Klan Found Guilty In Florida

TAMPA, Fla.—With five policemen convicted of kidnaping Eugene Poulnot last November when he and two other unemployed leaders were arrested and turned over to a KKK mob for beatings, the organized action of protesting workers begins to show its strength in the south. The trial, in which the 5 policemen were found guilty was held in Bartow, Florida, in a Klan court. The only reason the trial took place was because of the action of aroused labor groups and liberals all over the country. The fight to bring the kidnap-murderers to justice was led by Communists and Socialists and participated in by trade unionists from every part of the United States. The 5 convicted policemen are C. A. Brown, C. W. Carlisle, Robert P. Bridges, F. W. Switzer, and Sam Crosby.

While the KKK defendants prepare to appeal their case to a higher court, labor is determined to carry on its fight to convict the murderers of Joseph Shoemaker, who, with Dr. Sam Rogers and Eugene Poulnot, was kidnaped and flogged. Shoemaker, a Socialist and militant leader of the unemployed, died as a result of the treatment given him by Klansmen in the woods near Tampa.

**Other Victories**  
The Tampa labor victories have been followed by other working class advances throughout the south. In New Orleans, Sheriff Lezin H. Himel was made to pay \$2,500 to the parents of Fred Moore, a 16-year-old Negro boy lynched by a mob at Labadieville, La., in 1933. Fred Moore was in the keeping of the sheriff, following his arrest on an attack frame-up. After the lynching, the stepfather of the girl whom the youth was accused of attacking, confessed to the crime himself. Sheriff Himel was found guilty in a federal court presided over by Judge Wayne G. Borah, who instructed the jury to find the sheriff guilty of responsibility for the action of his deputies in assisting in the mob murder of young Moore.

**Reverses Negro Sentence**  
In Montgomery, Ala., Chief Justice John C. Anderson granted a new trial to Richard Goldsmith, a Negro farmer who had been sentenced to serve 34 years for killing a white man in Fort Deposit. Judge Anderson ruled that the sentence was excessive and actuated by passion or race prejudice. Goldsmith surrendered to authorities right after shooting Guy Sellers, a white man, who invaded a Negro home, terrorized an old woman and tried to rape a young girl. The judge remanded the case for a new trial, stating that even if Goldsmith had fired the fatal shot, he was not guilty of more than first-degree manslaughter, which carries a sentence of from one to ten years.

In Birmingham, the acquittal of

## + KKK +

### ATTENTION!

**MEMBERS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN  
EX-MEMBERS AND FRIENDS—  
WRITE P. O. BOX 1558  
Buena Vista Station, Miami, Florida  
Important Information!**

### THE KLAN RIDES AGAIN!!

THE ABOVE WAS PRINTED AS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT in The Miami Herald, May 10, 1936.

## Night Riders Charged With death of Worker

(Continued from Page 1)  
an active member of the Communist Party.

The big automobile companies, the police authorities and the Hearst newspapers are doing everything possible to whitewash the investigation of the Black Legion.

**Legion Military Trained**  
Confessed members of the Black Legion have acknowledged that they were also members of the Ku Klux Klan. The membership of the Legion was at first announced as many million. Later, however, more reliable information gauged the number of Black Legionnaires as about 100,000. All members are given a military training and armed. According to reports National Guard leaders are prominent among the members of the terror group.

Working people have found something to laugh at in the statement of Hiram W. Evans of Atlanta, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, denouncing the terror activities of the Black Legion and saying the Klan would help wipe them out. This in view of the Klan murder of Joseph Shoemaker in Florida and the renewal of Klan threats throughout the South, only serves to further expose the hypocrisy of these twin night-riding terror bands who pose as decent citizens in the daytime and ride at night to murder labor leaders and smash all given rights of the American people.

Charlie Render, a 21-year-old Negro WPA worker, arrested on the charge of attacking Mrs. Hattie Duncan, a white woman, marked another step forward in the fight against rape frame-ups in the South. Render, who has witnesses to prove he was working at the time the attack was alleged to have taken place, was freed despite the Duncan woman's testimony that she recognized him. Render has been held in jail in Birmingham since last February. He was arrested by deputies after Mrs. Duncan said she was criminally attacked by a Negro and robbed of 25 cents near her home in Irondale. Her stories were all marked by hysterics and weeping.

## Lynchings Are Denounced As Vote-Catchers

WEST POINT, Miss.—In an address here before the Institute of the Mississippi Council for the Prevention of Lynching, Dr. Arthur Raper, professor of sociology at Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, laid the origin of lynching to economic, political and social conditions. He charged officers of the law with holding votes more dear than their responsibility to safeguard the lives of their charges.

"If it came to a question of losing votes or allowing a Negro to be lynched," Dr. Raper said, "the typical rural official would allow the lynching."

"To finally eliminate lynchings, we must get rid of tenant farming, rid of the socially and politically disinherited group we now have by making them feel that they have some rights."

## MILL DENIED INJUNCTION

CORINTH, Miss.—The Corinth Hosiery mill was denied an injunction restraining an organizer for the Hosiery Workers Union from testifying before the national labor relations board. The mill officials claimed the testimony of the union would damage the mill. Allen McClure, a discharged mill worker, will also testify against the company before the labor relations board.

**TO LIVE AND DIE  
IN DIXIE**

A pamphlet about the South  
by Robert Wood, Secretary  
Southern District.

**INTERNATIONAL LABOR  
DEFENSE**

Published by the  
Southern Workers' Defense  
Committee  
Room 534, 156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.  
Price, 5 Cents

## 5,000 Workers Cut Off Ala. W. P. A. Rolls

MONTGOMERY—With 5,000 workers stricken from WPA rolls in Alabama, relief authorities announced a reduction in the relief dole from \$4.59 to \$1.59 a month.

In Jefferson county 2,200 needy persons were dropped from the relief rolls altogether in the past 2 months, according to Director R. A. Porter of the County Department of Public Welfare.

**Starved to Death**  
In Tarrant City last week a relief client, recently dropped from WPA, died of malnutrition. The doctors said he had not had enough to eat to make him strong enough to fight disease. In addition to the worker himself, three other members of his family had no provision made for them other than the \$1.59 received from the DPW.

In Tennessee, families on relief received presents of onions from the state. The relief clients, many of whom have been dropped during the past few months, regarded the gifts dubiously. The food value of onions is not very great.

In Knoxville relief authorities stated that the number of persons needing relief in Tennessee is growing. Knoxville has approximately 23,000 families. Six thousand five hundred are listed as unemployed, but only 440 are on WPA.

"Five or six years of a starvation diet is taking its toll," said Miss Louise Bifnall, head of the family welfare bureau in Knoxville. "There is a marked depletion of physical reserves in families served by our bureau. Even if industry threw its doors wide open, relief rolls would now be crowded with persons made physically unfit by starvation rations."

## Smelters Still On Strike At East Thomas

BIRMINGHAM—In a statement issued by Van D. Jones, International representative of the Mine, Mill and Smelters Union in District 5, Union Local 137 at the East Thomas Furnace of the Republic Steel Corp., is declared still striking. In a letter given to the press, Van D. Jones states that:

"Contrary to all rumors which are prevalent at this time, the strike of F. D. R. Local No. 137, called on April 25, 1934, HAS NOT BEEN TERMINATED. This Local Union is composed of employees (working before the strike) of the Thomas Furnace division of the Republic Steel Corporation."

(Signed) Van D. Jones,  
Int. Ex. Board Member, Dist. 5,  
I.U.M.M. & S.W.

## 171 Witnesses Arrested In LaGrange, Ga.

LA GRANGE, Ga.—Persecuted for their religious practices, 171 members of a group known as Jehovah's Witnesses were arrested for distributing their literature in this mill town. They were charged with peddling without a license and elected to serve 30-day road gang sentences rather than pay fines and admit guilt.

The arrest took place on May 24. The group of Witnesses came into LaGrange and were peacefully giving away their literature to citizens of the town. The mill owners, chief of whom is Caxton Holloway, got the police after the Witnesses, claiming that their pamphlets were "Communist." Lacking a law upon which to prosecute the religious people, the LaGrange officials claimed they were violating a city ordinance against peddling without a license.

**One Hundred Women**  
One hundred of the persecuted persons were white women. These were locked up in the Y. M. C. A. overnight. Later they were released on bond. The 71 men, however, were carried to the Troupp county stockade, 4 miles from LaGrange and made to sleep on the ground, without covering, for five nights. They were then put to work on the road gang and their sleeping quarters were transferred to the recorder's court at the city jail.

One of the chief reasons for the enmity of the millowners and police of LaGrange is that the Jehovah Witnesses admit Negroes to their group. Two of the arrested people were Negroes, a man and a woman. The latter was the only woman to be held in jail and refused bond. She was made to cook for the men.

The authorities were enraged upon reading the Jehovah Witness pamphlets to discover that the religious group protested against the arrest and punishment of a little boy who refused to salute the flag.

The Witnesses maintained that no citizen or the child of a citizen should be compelled to salute a flag. The LaGrange police said this was "pure Communism." The literature of the group, far from being Communist, is very Biblical in character. Like the Communists, however, the Jehovah Witnesses are opposed to war and fascism.

All of the persons arrested in LaGrange were citizens from nearby towns of Georgia and Alabama. Among the many men sent to work out their sentences on the road gang were a little boy of 13 and an old man of 93.

**UNIONS ANSWER CHALLENGE**  
CANTON, O.—An attack by the mayor and business interests to deny the right of labor to be organized has been answered by a general strike on labor here.

# 30 Armories Are Built With Ala. WPA Funds

MONTGOMERY.—Work on 12 more armories will begin in Alabama on July 1, bringing the total number built with WPA funds up to 30. These armories are to be used to house National Guardsmen whose primary function in the South is to break strikes.

The industrial water line built with WPA funds in Birmingham will supply cheap water to the textile and steel industries. The water line and armories, together with the airport, take up money that might well be spent for housing. The unsanitary living conditions of the working people of Birmingham and other parts of the South are chiefly responsible for the high death rate.

In Jefferson county, where a housing program is bitterly needed, mortgage companies on Wall Street prevent WPA funds from being used for this purpose. A housing program would interfere with the high rents obtained by these companies for shotgun shacks.

# Full Communist Support to Farmer-Labor Party Is Pledged By Browder

CHICAGO, Ill., June 3.—In a short, brilliantly presented speech, Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party, pledged full and loyal support for the building of a National Farmer-Labor Party to the eighty outstanding representatives of labor, farmer and progressive forces assembled here over the week-end in the Farmer-Labor Party Conference in the Morrison Hotel.

At the closing session the conference called upon the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party to call a National Convention this year.

Browder's speech follows in full:  
**For Independent Action**  
Friends:

This Conference is a most promising beginning to get together the scattered forces of workers, farmers and middle classes for independent political action.

Never was this more needed. The latest Supreme Court decision invalidating the Cuffey Act is a challenge that can be met only by an all-inclusive national Farmer-Labor Party and a drive to put its representative into Congress.

Revolutions of the Black Legion in Detroit show how deep the fascist poison is being driven among the people. These trends have their source, their guiding spirit, their financial stimulus in the Liberty League and Hearst. This was revealed by the LaFollette senatorial investigation into the demerits of civil rights. All the most reactionary forces are now gathering around the Republican Party, determined to fully impose their power on the country.

### Pledges Support

It is impossible for us to believe that Roosevelt will halt this trend toward reaction and fascism in America; he is retreating before reaction and his own party, especially in the South, is itself so deeply reactionary.

Only a Farmer-Labor Party can rally the progressive forces of the country, halt the trends toward fascism, and preserve American democratic liberties.

I speak for the Communists and their associates in pledging full and loyal support to this effort. We are but a small group here. But throughout the country we influence an important and growing movement, which brings to the Farmer-Labor Party energetic and steadfast support. We know that some persons have stayed away from this Conference, stating as their reason that their demand for our exclusion was not adopted. Some who are here may also be influenced by Hearst's anti-red campaign and may be afraid of association with us. Permit me a few frank words on this question.

### Ways To Unite

Since Al Smith and Hearst declared that even the New Deal stands for the red flag and revolution, it seemed that we Communists should have become almost respectable. The campaign against Roosevelt has as little justification in fact as the campaign against us; he is certainly not communistic. These are the slogans of reaction,



EARL BROWDER

designed to confuse, divide and defeat the working population. If we want victory against reaction, then we must not look for excuses to divide, but rather for all possible ways to unite.

It is true we Communists are revolutionists. That is our right, guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence. In this we follow the hallowed American tradition, associated with such names as Washington, Jefferson, Tom Paine and Lincoln. We differ from our forefathers in this respect, only in this—that we come 180 years later, and face a deeper crisis.

We help build the Farmer-Labor Party. We know it is not a revolutionary party. We do not propose to give it a program of revolution now or later. We do not ask it to adopt Communist principles. We ask only that it shall not adopt the Hearst anti-red campaign, which harms the broadest progressive movement more than it does the Communists, and that it allow the Communists to help build the party.

### U. S. Ready For Party

We know that America, while its people are not ready to fight for socialism, is fully ripe for a Farmer-Labor Party. Such a Party will not bring socialism, but it will greatly lessen the pains of a later transition to socialism. That is why we can wholeheartedly and fully support the Farmer-Labor Party, even though its program should contain only immediate demands, without abandoning our Communist opinions. We do not want to push its program to the left.

Let me briefly repudiate some of the most serious charges made against us. Some say that we "advocate violence," that we are conspirators and terrorists, that we are against democracy. That is not true. It is as far from correct as if those charges were made against Washington and Lincoln. We know too well how much the toilers suffer from reactionary violence. When however, we say that we are not pacifists nor non-resisters, we are in the best traditions of Americanism.

Since when have Americans been pacifists? We support and fight for democratic rights of the masses. We want to see them used to the utmost, to gain everything possible by them. We would subscribe to

such a declaration against violence which would not be a pacifist repudiation of America's birth as an independent nation or of the great Lincoln.

It has been charged that we seek control of the Farmer-Labor Party. If true that would be a great stupidity on our part. Control is the last thing we need or ask. A mass movement should have no such fears. We will for some time be a small minority, though a useful one. Even if we grow much stronger we will not want or seek control. We want only such influence in the Farmer-Labor Party councils that can be exerted through the democratic process of convincing arguments with loyal and energetic work.

### A Broad, Popular Movement

We want to join all others in building a broad, popular movement of workers, farmers and middle classes to protect and advance their own interests.

Can this conference proceed with its work with a few Communists in its midst with confidence that it is on the correct path to success? Yes, it can, if it recalls the recent events in France and Spain where the People's Front, including the Communists, saved those countries from the Hitler system. It can, if it looks over the country and sees, in city after city, in the trade unions, among the unemployed, the youth, the students, the Negroes, among the local Farmer-Labor parties—everywhere, the most successful movements are those which have full unity, which exclude only enemies, which rally all forces against the real enemy—Wall Street and its agents.

At the proper time I want to make some suggestions toward the program discussion. Now it is sufficient to urge this conference to adopt the basis of a broad unity, and to fulfil the expectations of a great movement rising throughout America, by deciding to call an all-inclusive National Farmer-Labor party convention.

Such a convention can establish this year, in all respects except a presidential ticket, that National Farmer-Labor Party that we need so much. If we begin now, then by 1940 it can become one of the two first parties in the land.

# French Workers Victorious As Strike Ends

PARIS.—A million French workers won their full demands and ended their victorious strike as the new cabinet took up the work of government. Leon Blum is the new Socialist premier of France. French employers granted workers general salary increases, union recognition, the right of collective bargaining and dealing with salaries.

Meanwhile in the coal fields of France, 150,000 coal miners, freed by the victories of the factory and mill workers, struck the mines where they work under miserable conditions. The workers of France made part of their fight the struggle to secure parity for their wages as well as organized workers. Four hundred and eighty thousand new members of the United General Confederation of Labor were reported in one week.

The new government favors the abolition of such Communist, Socialist, and radical journals as the People's Front, republican publications. The new French government, under the leadership of Blum, has already taken steps against war by moving to nationalize the war machine industry to prevent the sale of armaments to foreign powers.

# Methodists Defeat Attempt To Split Ranks

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—Expected to result in a split between progressives and conservatives, the Methodist General Conference held here recently turned out to be a "peace party." The Methodist delegates discovered that the social, political and economic issues now confronting the country are reasons for compact membership and united action.

Because many Methodist clergymen in the United States are so-called Radicals, a few of the conservatives had demanded that "Methodism clean its house of socialist ideas and socialistically inclined ministers." Instead, Methodist leaders referred the membership to the resolution adopted by the church condemning a profit-motivated society.

Among those under attack at the Conference were Bishop Francis J. McConnell and Professor Harry F. Ward, head of the American Civil Liberties Union and a professor at Union Theological Seminary, New York. Professor Ward is also head of the American League Against War and Fascism.

### MARINERS' PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

NEW ORLEANS.—A publicity committee to place conditions existing in the gulf maritime industry before the public has been appointed by the Crescent City district council of the Maritime Federation of the Gulf Coast.

### THANK YOU, MR. HEARST!

Editor, The Southern Worker: You can count me one of your regular readers now though I never saw a copy of your paper before.

### HEARST

Tore the ATLANTA GEORGIAN ran a story about it on the front page. Even in the picture they had of it, The Southern Worker looked like a pretty good paper. They said those 18 people that got arrested down here last week had the paper on them. I got hold of a copy and now I'm writing for a subscription.

All the working people I know are hot about those people getting put into jail. I think all of us are beginning to get on to the idea that the reason Atlanta is so weak in its trade unions is because we let things like this happen. The point isn't really so much whether you are a Communist or a Socialist, what they're after is just anyone who don't like the low wages and rotten conditions we got down here.

I think you ought to write a letter to the ATLANTA GEORGIAN and tell them thanks for giving you an ad. I passed your paper around and you'll get more subscriptions from Atlanta, all on account of Mr. Hearst.

A Georgia Reader.

### MINE WALK-OUT

ST. CHARLES, Va.—Striking against the crowding of men in work rooms, 1,000 miners walked out of the Benedict mine, second largest in the St. Charles field. Mine officials, attempting to break the union, shut down following the walk-out.

Fill out the coupon and send it to Box 572, Birmingham, Ala., with money in stamps for your subscription.  
I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ month's subscription to the Southern Worker. Please send me also a copy of REDS IN DIXIE.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Terror Fails to Break Cotton Choppers Strike

FORREST CITY, Ark.—Lynch mobs roam the highways and deputy sheriffs arrest all strangers seen here, as the plantation owners and police attempt to break the Cotton Choppers Strike, led by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

The cotton choppers, numbering 7,000, struck May 18. Their demands were \$1.50 for a 10-hour day, a place of 50-75c for a 16-hour day, decent contracts, the right to bargain collectively and arbitration of wage and contract disputes. Machine guns, state military concentration camps are but a few of the methods employed by the plantation owners to try to break the strike. Mass arrests, with long term prison sentences, have clobbered the picket lines of some of the most militant of the strikers. The strength of the choppers in Cross, Crittendon and St. Francis County, however, has not been broken despite the outbreaks of murder and terror.

**Leader Held**

Oliver Benson, a national leader of the Workers Alliance, was one of those arrested here for leading a picket line. Benson, who is in jail now, was charged inciting to riot and "enticing labor." He was fined \$1,000. Known leaders of the Tenant Farmers Union are in danger of their lives. The plantation owners threaten to hang the leaders to cypress trees and stop all this labor trouble.

A concentration camp was set up on the plantation of P. D. Peacher, at Earle, Arkansas. Peacher is one of the most noted killers in Eastern Arkansas.

In northern Mississippi, however, plantation owners have grown in fear action on the part of day laborers in their area. They have in many instances already raised wages for cotton choppers to \$1.25 a day.

**MILL CLOSES DOWN**

TALLADEGA, Ala.—An hour before a local of the United Textile Workers was installed here, the Samoset Cotton Mills posted a notice that it was closing down. The shut-down order is an attempt to crush the textile local which now includes 400 members. The Samoset Mills are reported to employ between 400 and 500 workers.

**"THE REDS IN DIXIE"**

**Who Are The Communists, and What Do They Fight for in the South**

By Tom Johnson

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

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

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of "REDS IN DIXIE." I enclose 5 cents to reach pamphlet to cover cost of mailing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# UNDER THE LANDLORDS' RULE



## Dry Spell Causes Crop Failures In the South

With no rain since April 1st and none in sight, the southeast faces the problem of meeting another kind of cotton curtailment.

In central Georgia complete crop failure is indicated. Tennessee faces a damage amounting to \$30,000,000 with the shortest crop year on record. North Carolina, Alabama, Maryland and Virginia also face major crop losses.

Southern Congressmen are trying to obtain quick federal aid for farmers in handicapped areas.

## TEXTILE WORKERS WIN STRIKE

HUNTSVILLE, Ala.—The 3-months' strike of 1,400 textile workers at the Lincoln Cotton mill here ended with the union workers winning the right to collective bargaining and continuance of NRA wages. The workers walked out Feb. 12 in protest against bad working conditions. Of the 1,800 workers at the mill 1,200 are members of the United Textile Workers.

## Union Wins Benefits for Sharecroppers

In Tallapoosa County, the protests of sharecroppers brought results from the AAA investigation of benefit checks. Five croppers on the Howard plantation received checks due them from 1933-1935. Howard had said he might as well turn his plantation over to the Negroes and be done with it. Four Negroes and one white cropper received their allotment for the same period from plantation owner Birthy Johnson. Johnson's excuse for not paying was that he had understood the County Agent was looking after the checks. Press Winclay, Dadeville landlord, was forced to pay four Negroes on his plantation their checks and Louis Young quickly paid his croppers after hearing of the investigation. He told friends that "he'd be glad when this union was broken up because it wasn't worth a damn to him."

But terror has run side by side with victory in Tallapoosa County. A Camp Hill landlord fired on a Negro woman working on his plantation when she walked accidentally across the field where he had built new terraces. When the ground on Mrs. Ella Gamble's land near Reel-town became too hard for plowing, Grady Wheeler, one of her workers found a job at a sawmill. He was beaten and his house raided by Burke Brown, Buster Gamble and other lynchers who warned him to return to the Gamble plantation or else he would be killed.

## BARBERS SET PRICES

NEW ORLEANS.—Union and Master Barbers in Louisiana have agreed on a legislative bill empowering 75 percent of the barbers of a town to fix minimum prices.

## Union Organizer Is Held For Libel

Criminal libel was charged against John Moore, Farmer's Union organizer in Louisiana from evidence in a letter written to the Farm Leader by Moore in which he stated that John Lackey, Simmesport merchant had threatened him and union members with violence, that Lackey was a drunk and urged croppers and farmers to boycott him.

Moore was released on a \$3,000 bond with the trial date undetermined. Sheriff J. J. Jeanson of Marksville refused to assume responsibility for Moore's safety, saying "A lot of things can happen at night, like a mob beating him up and I might not come in time."

The Mayor of Simmesport in an interview said that the union had a right to organize but "if we let whites and niggers organize around here things might happen like they're happening in Arkansas now."

Negro and white croppers in the district were anxious to show affidavits confirming Moore's letter on the question of Lackey's bad character and habitual drunkenness.

## TEXTILE MILL POLL

ALABAMA CITY, Ala.—The Dwight Manufacturing Co., textile mill, tried to discredit the secret poll of workers in the mill which showed that they favor organization into the UTW. Harold Wilkes, secretary of the company union at the Dwight Mill, produced a petition circulated by the company, which the employees had been forced to sign. It workers were satisfied with conditions and wanted the Company union.

# Farm News

BY JERRY COLEMAN

AFTER a more than 50-day drought, with soil parched and baked, the crops of the Southern farmers are being ruined. The southeastern states are hardest hit. Recently a group of southern congressmen got together to ask for drought relief. Their plea is for the landlords. Every farmers' organization should immediately pass resolutions demanding relief money for food, clothes and shelter; protection against mortgage foreclosures and confiscation of livestock and farm equipment; cancellation of all debts on this year's crop; a guarantee of adequate loans for seeds, feed and fertilizer for the 1937 crop year; and send it to Secretary Wallace in Washington.

Wallace and the crop destruction crowd in Washington will not be so happy over the drought fulfilling their cotton reduction program if they are forced to give real drought relief.

THE greatest strike movement among the cotton choppers and day laborers in the history of the South, being led by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in Arkansas, became even more historic when 78 representatives of the strikers called for a general strike of all sharecroppers and tenants to smash a brutal drive of landlord terror.

If the day laborers of Arkansas do not win all their demands, if the terror is not stopped and their rights guaranteed their constitutional rights, the only answer is that ALL THE UNIONS OF THE FARM WAGE HANDS AND SHARE CROPPERS IN THE SOUTH CALL AN EVEN GREATER COTTON PICKERS' STRIKE THAT WILL BE SOUTH WIDE AND WILL NOT STOP UNTIL ALL DEMANDS HAVE BEEN WON.

THE investigation of landlords who stole AAA-crop reduction payment checks from sharecroppers and tenants by the AAA in Tallapoosa and Lee Counties, Alabama, has netted results. The Sharecroppers Union pressed the investigation and many croppers and tenants are getting checks for 1933 and right on up to 1936.

This proves that we can get results if we expose this graft and embarrass the government to such a degree that they are forced to deal fairly with the forgotten man.

THE resolution passed by the Farmers' Union Six-County meeting in Haleyville condemning the 80c tax on cotton to provide funds for administering the Soil Conservation Act in Alabama displayed real watchfulness on the part of these Union men. This bale tax would force the poor farmers, sharecroppers and tenants to pay for a program that is destroying them. Every farmer in Alabama should write a letter to his representative in the legislature demanding that the tax bill be defeated.

## I. L. D. Leader Tells Story of Bribe Offered by McDuff

By ROBERT WASHINGTON

BIRMINGHAM.—On April 14th, I was delivering a car to the secretary of the Share Croppers' Union. As I was driving along the road near Vanderbilt furnaces, two motor scouts began to trail me. They stopped me a block from where they first saw me. They searched the car, but did not find anything. They asked me my name and when I told them, they recognized it because I have been working in the I.L.D. in Birmingham for several years.

The cops asked me who the car belong to. I told them. They got in the car and drove me to the city hall in Birmingham, where they began to question me. After about an hour they called in J. T. Moser and Mr. Riley of the Birmingham detective force. They kept asking me where was the owner of the car. They put me in a car and took me out to find him. He was not at the place. I told them, so they carried me back to be fingerprinted and photographed and put in jail. They charged me with having defective brakes and no driver's license.

### McDuff Offers Bribe

That night Milt McDuff, from the McDuff Detective Agency, came over to question me. He tried to get me to be a stool for him by offering me money, saying he would get me out and protect me. When this failed he told the warden to take me back and let me rot in jail. The next night I was out on bond raised by the I.L.D.

On April 25 I was put on trial in Judge Skinner's court. These were the questions the judge asked me: Are you guilty? How long have you been in the Communist Party? Have you been to Russia? Then he said "I am going to fine you \$100 and costs and give you 6 months at hard labor."

The International Labor Defense is appealing my case for me. This is an attack on civil liberties. No one just arrested for defective brakes or driving without license ever gets more than a little fine or sentence. The Birmingham courts are helping to try to smash the organization of labor.

It is costing the I.L.D. a lot of money to carry on all the battles in the courts down South. Every one who can should make money contributions to the International Labor Defense, Box 604, Birmingham. Also everyone should send protests to Judge Skinner and to W. O. Downs, City Commissioner, City Hall Building, Birmingham.



## Ike Robinton Stands With Labor Enemies

By a Birmingham Correspondent  
Ike Robinton, a volunteer organizer for the labor movement in the state of Alabama, has at last definitely shown whose side he is on, and it is not the side of labor.

Ike Robinton is now taking his stand with John Altman and Huddleston, both enemies of the labor movement. Last week he wrote a three-page letter which he is having distributed to all labor unions in the district, condemning Bill Mitch president of the State Federation of Labor. He says Mitch is a dictator sent down from the foreign territory of Indiana (Ike is from New York) to tell the people of Alabama how to vote and to rule them like a king. He tries to scare the workers by telling them that Mitch wants the Negroes to rule in Alabama, but he, Ike, will always stand by the working people and fight for white superiority.

### Raises Red Scare

Ike Robinton has never done anything of benefit to the laboring people of this state. His time has been spent raising the Red scare and trying to keep Negro and white workers separated. He has been pretty thick with McDuff's gang in tracking down Communists. He is the one who introduced the resolution against Communists in the State Convention just lately. He wasn't able to get any honest worker to introduce it after he had composed it, so he had to do it himself.

He has been known to go out on WPA projects and report to the bosses men whom HE suspected of being Communists. By doing this he was trying to obtain a job for himself. After he had reported a clerical worker once, he then began to tell the boss man what a swell worker he, Ike, was and didn't he think they might be able to work him in? But even the boss laughed at him.

The workers in the labor movement here in Alabama have learned to beware of the Judases who pop up now and then, and they know that Ike Robinton is one of such and they have nothing in common with him. Several unions have already asked him to let them alone and others have refused to have him come there and speak.

In another local a motion prevailed to write Ike a letter asking him to please mind his own business, and in a roundabout way, told him to go to hell.

Workers are getting fed up on "leaders" of the Robinton type.

WASHINGTON.—Maintenance of way men working for the Nickel Plate System have won an 8-hour day agreement. More than 2,200 workers are affected.

## Rome Strikers Are Praised For Courage

By a Worker Correspondent

ROME, Ga.—When the final chapter of union labor under capitalism has been written, prominent space should be given to the striking maulers at the Rome Stove and Range Company, for their gallant fight against the conditions forced on them by labor-crushing employers. On the picket lines before the Stove and Range Company, in the courts facing a judge who hates the workers who elected him to office, and in the jail to which they went singing, to serve their sentences, these militant workers displayed a courageous spirit unsurpassed by Southern Labor.

The strike began almost a year ago when the company discharged a number of workers because they belonged to the union. Also they attempted to force a wage cut on the workers. Just as soon as the strike was called, the stove company incorporated a group of 50 thugs into Rome, armed them with modern warfare equipment and set out to break the strike regardless of the cost. The union answered this challenge with a mass picket line around the mill.

### Thugs Open Fire

The gun thugs opened fire on the union men when they attempted to keep scabs from going into the mill. One union leader was murdered, and several were seriously injured. Among the injured were some women.

During all the months that followed the union spirit never faltered and the mass picket line did not grow any smaller. The foundry bosses, seeing that they could not break the strike with their high-power gun thugs, went to Judge Porter and got a sweeping injunction against the pickets. The day after the injunction was granted, a mass picket line surrounded the plant as usual. It was impossible to arrest all the people at once, so the stool pigeons of the bosses took down the names of everyone they recognized and turned them in to the judge. The next day the sheriff went out with warrants. Sixty workers were arrested and convicted of contempt of court. They were all put in jail to serve sentences ranging from five to eight days.

When they went to jail, they marched down the streets of Rome in a body singing union songs. The 60 empty places in the picket line were immediately filled by sympathetic people. There have not been any more arrests since then, though the picket line still keeps up before the mill and the strike continues as strong as a year ago. The workers in Rome are just as confident and brave today as they were the day the strike began.

### DISTILLERS UNFAIR

MINNEAPOLIS.—Charges of cheap labor were made against Seagram and Calvert, distillers, here by the Coopers' International Union here. The union has put the companies on the "don't patronize" list.

## Labor Party Need Shown by Miner Who is Tired of Politicians

By An Ore Miner.

BESSEMER, Ala.—I was brought up to think that the Democratic party was the party that saved the South, and was something sacred. Up until 1932, I always voted democratic and listened to the spiel of the politicians about holding high the banner of Jefferson and "keeping the nigger in his place." I am ashamed to say that I swallowed it hook, line and sinker. Since 1932, I haven't made enough money to keep my poll tax paid up without depriving my family of something they needed so I haven't been able to vote.

Several months ago somebody sold me a copy of the Southern Worker and I have read every issue since then. I am beginning to get my eyes opened and see things different now.

### Who Are The Fools?

I have listened to the flood of political speeches over the radio and am trying to figure out if the politicians are fools or if they just think the common people are. All the unions and just about every working man is against Huddleston out this way. I figured that since the big corporations were supporting Huddleston and the union officials were backing Patrick that Patrick must be a pretty good guy. I got a real shock when I heard Patrick speak in Bessemer last night. It must be remembered that Bessemer is a working class town. I guess that 95 percent of the people make their living here working in ore mines, steel plants and other big industries. The majority of them belong to unions. At the present time 2,500 ore miners are on strike to prevent the T.C.I. from breaking the union, increasing hours, and laying off 500 miners. This strike means plenty to all of us because we know that if the steel companies can smash the miners we will all get it in the neck. To get to Luther Patrick, he opened up by apologizing for having the support of the president of the state federation of labor. He said that he didn't know Mitch very well, but he thought that he was a nice gentleman. He said that he did not approve of Negroes and whites meeting together in the same hall, but maybe Mitch had some reason for this. He took up a half hour to say that he hadn't promised Mitch or any other leader of organized labor anything. He didn't mention the ore strike, the T.C.I. relief, the supreme court or anything else the working people are interested in. He did say that he was in favor of "keeping the nigger in his place," and that he often had to sleep across the foot of the bed when he was a boy.

I am glad to say that in spite of the fact the people of Bessemer hate Huddleston like poison, that very few applauded Patrick. We wanted to find out if Patrick is in favor of a 30-hour week law, in limiting the power of the supreme court, trade union wages on WPA, real old age pensions and unemployment insurance, outlawing of company unions and forcing the big steel companies to bargain collectively with the unions. The only thing we found out was that he is in favor of keeping Negro and white workers divided and is a "pore but honest boy, fighting for the common people."

One thing is sure: as long as three-fourths of the working people are unable to vote, the politicians don't have to worry about whether we like them or not. With the right to vote for every working man and woman and a Labor Party, the working people could run this country.

## Workers Evicted From Shacks of Corporations

By a Worker Correspondent

"We're well organized here in Birmingham. That's how come we can afford to evict people out of our houses." Thus spoke the representative of one of the big housing corporations in Birmingham.

Nearly all the houses here are owned by some corporation such as the Jefferson Mortgage, and they are, in truth, well organized. Just recently all these corporations held a meeting where they pledged to one another that they would rent no houses to anyone on relief. They had decided that they had been losing money on their houses rented to relief people. Even those on WPA usually were not able to pay up to date every month.

And nearly all the available houses in Birmingham are controlled by these companies, so now what will the 20,000 people on relief do about a house to live in?

Last week out in Tarrant three families were evicted out of the Corporation houses. One man had a sick wife and five very small kids to take care of. He was making \$30 per month on WPA. He traveled all over the city and all the outlying sections in search of a house, but all in vain. No company would rent a house to him. He had the money saved up in advance to pay for the house, but they would not accept it. Disgusted with trying to find one, he finally moved into one without asking anyone about it. Now they are trying to put him out of that one. The sheriff has been out twice already.

Another family who was set out one day moved right back in again. Then the law came and they had to get out again. The law is on the side of the big holding companies.

There are plenty of empty houses here in Birmingham, rotting away and there are also plenty of people needing houses to live in, but it is not allowed. The houses belong to a select few and the masses of people can go to the devil, until they too are well organized.

### SEAMEN STRIKE

HOUSTON, Tex.—Three hundred sympathizers picketed the docks here as the crew of the tanker Caliche struck in protest of a non-union wage scale.

# Membership of the RR Unions Speaks

What They Think About the Dismissal Wage Agreement Just Signed by the RR Labor Executives Association.

By GEORGE BROWN

After three years of fencing and shadow boxing, and against the expressed will of the membership of the railroad lodges, the RR Labor Executives Assn. on May 21, signed an agreement with representatives of a majority of the roads accepting a totally inadequate and temporary dismissal wage for men displaced from service through consolidation of railroad facilities.

Spokesmen for the railroad bankers had the agreement as the removal of the last barrier to their program of eliminating at least 200,000 men from the industry within the next few years. Henceforth is limited to service from the date of last employment. The dismissal wage finally accepted gives a maximum of three-fifths wages for 5 years to men who can qualify for 15 years or more of service.

Through subterfuge and evasion the roads will be able to disregard even this totally inadequate compensation for the majority of the men will be eliminated before consolidations actually take place.

The sentiment expressed by the most militant sections of organized railroad labor is that the fight for jobs, far from being ended, has just begun; that consolidations can and must be stopped at the terminals—a national six-hour day be adopted; and that the agreement be revised in line with the demands of the membership.

The men contend that this agreement was made without consulting either the lodges or the 1,500 General Chairmen in whom the membership through their lodges, delegate power to negotiate contracts. They claim that even this so-called agreement cannot become effective unless and until all seniority rosters of men employed by railroad systems whose facilities are to be pooled, are opened and dovetailed.

Therefore, they say, the national agreement can only apply: (1) after consolidation of specific facilities are ordered, accepted or authorized at a given terminal; (2) after the various unions involved agree to terminate existing seniority schedules and scramble them in conformity with other roads and switching districts as proposed in the particular plan under consideration.

During this process the membership expects to consolidate its forces, win the support of the communities which would be adversely affected, and stop consolidations utilizing its economic power where necessary.

Directly after the signing of the agreement a number of RR lodges in Missouri issued a call for a state conference to determine what protective action could be taken there. Cooperating in the meeting were the lodges of Kansas City who were the first to effectively block orders of RR Coordinator Eastman for consolidations in that terminal.

Efforts are also being made to extend the action taken by the state of Alabama prohibiting all consolidation of RR facilities of

roads engaged in intra-state commerce. This would eliminate all belt and short lines and seriously obstruct the plans of the railroad bankers.

Communities faced with consolidations are becoming alive to the fact that it is not just a question of whether or not men can be coerced into accepting a few months or years' wages in place of a job, but rather the effect on the communities when shops are closed down, yards abandoned, business men without customers. And they are also alarmed at what will happen when the dismissal wage has run out and the men are thrown back on the cities and states for maintenance.

In its fight against the sharpening encroachments of Wall Street, railroad labor should have the support of all organized labor and of every person who values free trade unions, for the maintenance and improvement of the living and working standards of American wage earners.

## Workers Resent TCI Politicians

BESSEMER, Ala.—Veterans in ward 2 are indignant at the high-handed manner in which the Democratic executive committee and the TCI are trying to force through the re-election of alderman A. D. Maddox. Three candidates qualified for the office, Maddox, T. J. DeJarnett and E. E. Kean. Maddox is employment agent for the TCI and DeJarnett and Kean are both TCI workers. After it was too late for other candidates to qualify TCI officials told DeJarnett and Kean that if they wanted to hold their jobs they would have to withdraw from the race which they did.

In 1934 Maddox canvassed the rural sections for scabs to break the ore strike and is generally known as a union hater and strike breaker. Ward 2 is a working class neighborhood and the people there intend to do everything possible to prevent the re-election of Maddox. Petitions have been circulated and a large mass meeting has been held in an attempt to force Judge Ball, chairman of the Democratic committee to allow other candidates to qualify for the office. Ball has ignored the will of the people in Ward 2 and has refused.

## Communist Party Holds National Convention

Final preparations for the Ninth National Convention of the Communist Party, to be held June 24, 28 in New York City, are now under way. Convention discussions are being held all over the country as Party members and sympathizers participate in the planning of the program.

The fight against war and fascism, against reaction, Hearst and the Liberty League, the burning need to build a firm United Front among the anti-reactionary forces of America, and the urgent prob-

# SOVIET TEXTILE WORKER HONORED



DUSYA VINAGADOVA, a textile worker of the Noga Mills, 200 miles from Moscow, is known to everyone in the Soviet Union today. She is a Stakhanovite—one of the new workers of a socialist land, working with joy in a way that only socialism makes possible.

## Negro Girl Describes Jim Crow School

By a Girl Correspondent  
BESSEMER, Ala.—I am a girl thirteen years old, and a Negro. I want you to know about the conditions here in our schools in Bessemer, so that is why I am writing to you.

We Negroes have only one school for children in Grammar school and this one is in very bad condition. Two children are forced to sit in one single seat together all day long and it is hard for them to study when they are cramped up like that. We have one teacher for about 30 or 40 children and we have to buy our own books. We have to walk a long way to school and if we're late we get a bad grade on our report cards. Our playground is very small and we don't have much exercise.

**White School Different**  
But in the white school it is different. Of course I was never allowed to go into one, but I talk to the man and woman who keep it clean. They say that there are electric fans in some of the rooms and they have one seat for each child. And they have big clean nurseries for the children under six years of age. But our mothers

## New Constitution Makes Another Advance in The Soviet Union

In the Soviet Union, where the workers are growing to know the joys of real democracy and freedom more fully each year, an important new change is taking place. A new constitution is to be adopted, granting greater privileges to individual citizens. The chief changes have to do with making the judicial system more democratic.

have to tend to the kids all day and do their other work too. The white children have better play grounds too, and better school buildings and teachers for just a few pupils. One teacher teaches just one class and the children get more out of their lessons.

Of course in everything the Negroes have a harder time than the white people. I know they always get paid less for their work and all that. But just the same it isn't fair and I don't like it. The bosses just want to keep us separate all the time and make us hate each other so they can keep all of us black and white under their heel, and so we won't do nothing to them, but some day we'll learn all about their tricks, and then we'll show them that we can get united.

The direct, secret election of judges is one of the features of the new constitution. Up until now, judges were selected through indirect elections by the various Soviets. The growing strength of the Soviet state now makes it possible to grant fuller privileges to the individuals within that state.

**Judges Are Guardians**  
The new system of election of judges is designed to connect the judges more closely to the broad masses of the working people and increase the significance of the people's judge as a guardian of the proletarian state and all its workers.

Under the new judicial system, even lawyers may come to play a role. As representatives of clients, they may now appear in court to argue cases or confer with the judge. Vyshinsky explains that because of the new blood which has come into the ranks of the legal profession, this is now possible.

**A Joyous Life**  
Stalin, in an address to the young graduates of the Red Army Academy urged them to develop their individual talents and to enjoy life. Stalin closed his address with a remark that is proven true by the happy faces on the youth of that new Socialist world that the Russian people have built up. "Life is joyous, comrades," Stalin told the Russian young people.

And life is becoming every day more joyous for these young people growing up in a country where economic security is known to all, where schools and theaters and fine food are in abundance for the WORKING PEOPLE, where the great agricultural regions are yielding vast harvests made possible by distribution to everybody, and where now the fullest kind of democracy is being realized by the people.

The workers of the Soviet Union may well be joyous.

## Communist Party Holds National Convention

Among the speakers at the open session will be William Z. Foster, Earl Browder, Mother Bloor, James Ford and other leaders. Workers from the South, as well as all over the United States, are urged to write to the Convention Committee giving their proposals as to which should be included in the Election Platform of the Communist Party. All letters must be sent to the Conventions Preparations Committee, P. O. Box 67, Station D., New York.

# THE SOUTHERN WORKER

The Paper of the Common People of the South  
Official Organ of the Communist Party of the U. S. A.  
in the South.

JIM MALLORY, Editor, Add. Box 572, Birmingham, Ala.

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## ORGANIZE STEEL

**"THE** steel drive will be on in early summer." John L. Lewis made this statement immediately after the executive council of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers decided to sign an agreement to put on a drive to organize the steel workers under the leadership of Lewis and the Committee on Industrial organization. Brother Lewis said there would be "no more delay." Good! There has been too much of that already.

The unorganized state of the steel industry has long been a weak spot in the Alabama and Southern Labor movement. The Steel Trust has grown more powerful over the years and has been trying to crush the organizations among the ore and coal miners as well as among the steel workers. A real drive, with sufficient funds, trained organizers, honest leadership and ON AN INDUSTRIAL BASIS, will defeat the steel trust. It looks like we have it.

Every union man, every local, every central body must co-operate to the fullest extent with the steel drive. Seek out the steel workers. Talk union to them. Convert them to the gospel of organization, of a mighty industrial A. F. of L.

The steel trust will counter by small increases in wages, hoping to stop the drive. They will pay McDuff more money to hire more spies. Their thugs will try to be more brutal. But nothing can stop the workers when once they get going.

## THE BLACK LEGION

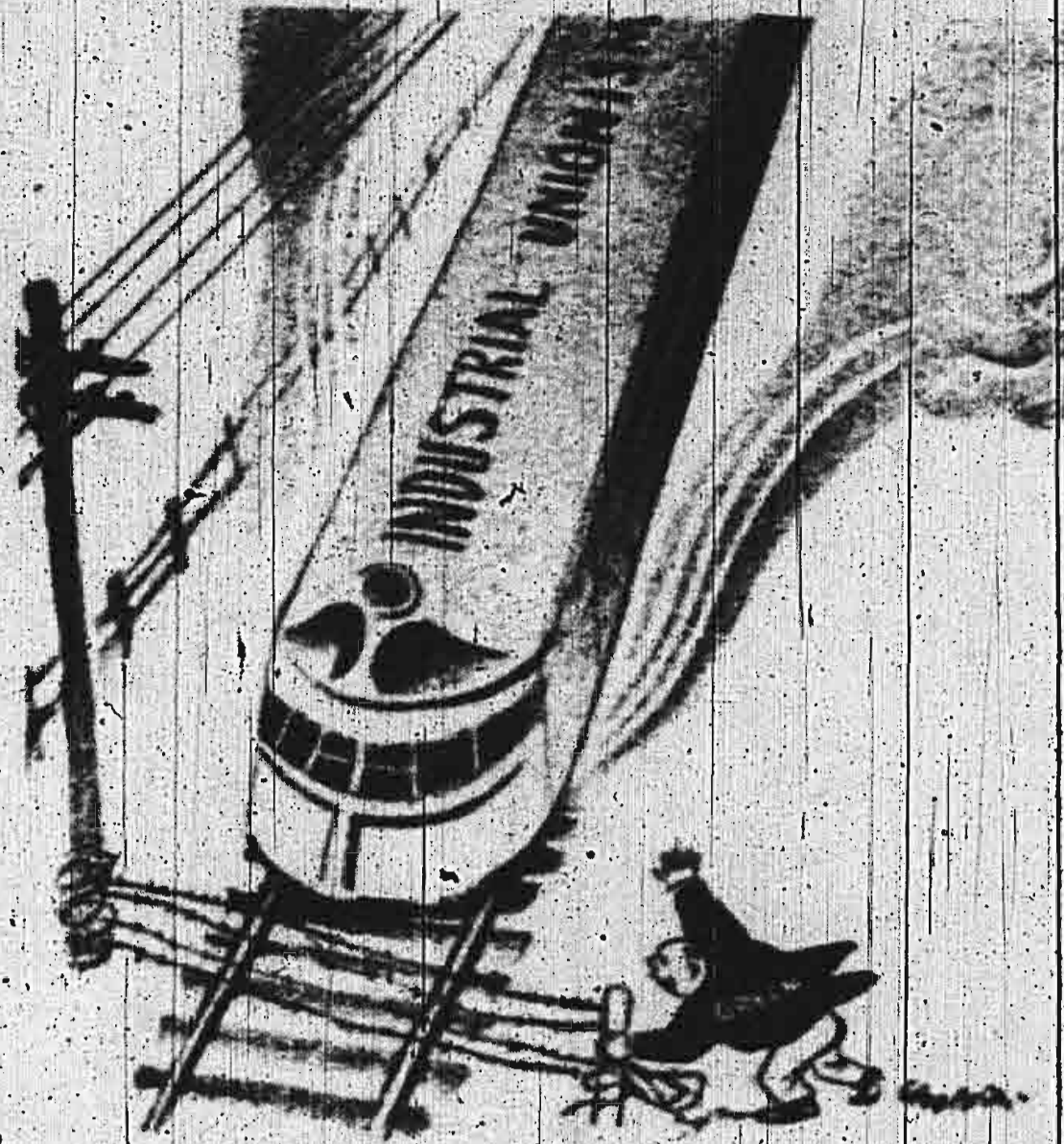
**U**P in Michigan the Ku Klux Klan's twin brother, the Black Legion, has been caught in the act of murder. The Black Legion, differing from the KKK only in the color of its nightshirt, is the child of William Randolph Hearst, The Liberty League, the auto manufacturers and other big business elements. Its purpose is to wipe out trade unions, kill off all militant workers, keep the flames of religious and racial differences burning a division among workers and rule by terror.

No story out of Hitler's Germany is more terrible than the night executions carried out by the Black Legion. The Black Legion is indeed the Ku Klux Klan—riding by night to commit murder. The men who killed Joseph Shoemaker in Florida are the brothers of the men who murdered Charles Foole, a WPA worker in Detroit, because he "knew too much." They were the murderers of George Marchuk, Communist leader, and of John L. Bielak, an auto worker active in the union.

The fight to crush the Black Legion in Detroit is the fight to crush the reviving Klan in the South. The Black Belt landlords who killed Willie Foster and eight others a year ago have the same idea as these killers in the auto industry center. The Birmingham thugs, carrying out orders for McDuff and the steel companies are Black Legionnaires and Klucka. It doesn't matter whether they ride in automobiles or on horses, whether they wear white nightshirts or black ones, or just ordinary clothes—they are the men who will bring fascism to America for Hearst and the money kings unless workers and liberals wipe out the Klan, the Black Legion, labor spring detective agencies and all other agents of beginning fascism.

Support the LaFollette investigation of civil liberties. Force Congress to expose these night riders and their employers—Hearst and the Liberty League. Help crush Fascism before it crushes labor!

## LET PROGRESS GO BY, MR. GREEN!



## FOR DROUGHT RELIEF

**W**ITH their cotton and corn rotting in the fields as the dry spell continues, the poor farmers of Alabama, Georgia and the whole southeast face a year of disaster. With their crops ruined, they are without food or income, mortgages will be foreclosed, and credit will be denied them. They will have no money with which to buy seed for the next year's crop.

The rich farmers will make out all right. Already congressmen have asked for drought relief—for the landlords of the South. The people who need that relief, who must have aid to keep from dying beside their rotted crops, are the small farmers, tenants and sharecroppers. Federal relief must be given to these thousands of desperate Southern poor farmers—for food, clothes and shelter.

The Southern Worker urges every one of its readers to write a letter to Secretary Wallace in Washington, demanding drought relief for the stricken poor farmers of the South.

## THE INSURRECTION LAW

**E**IGHTEEN more workers are being held in Atlanta, Ga., under charges of "inciting to insurrection." This is the law declared unconstitutional in the case of Angelo Herndon. This is the law against which a resolution was passed at the 55th convention of the American Federation of Labor.

These eighteen people face death or long term chain-gang sentences if convicted. If they are found guilty under this slave day law, then no local union, no liberal or working class organization is safe in the South. Today the attack is on the Communists. Tomorrow it will be on all trade unionists and liberals—and tomorrow it will be in other states besides Georgia!

The insurrection law is a weapon of the Southern ruling class, used to crack down on those workers who organize against starvation wages, the stretch-out and work days that extend into the night. Labor is cheap in the South, because it is unorganized. It is unorganized because of such things as the Georgia Insurrection Law.

Every trade union local and central body, every group of liberals and all individuals who hate tyranny must help defeat this slave day law. Send protests to Solicitor-General John A. Boykin and Gov. Eugene Talmadge at Atlanta. Rush funds to the International Labor Defense, 80 East 11th Street, New York City.

JOIN THE  
**Communist Party**  
WRITE TO BOX 572  
Birmingham, Ala.

## The Power of The Supreme Court Must Be Broken

BY R. F. HALL

**M**Y forefathers came over from the British Isles to this new land of America because they wanted freedom, freedom to worship as they pleased and freedom to order their own lives without the necessity of bending their knee before an irresponsible king. And when this king resented their efforts toward a free, popular government and sent mercenary troops (like the company thugs of today) against them, they replied with their flintlocks and muskets, beat the dickens out of the king's Tories, and set up a government which they hoped would mean eternal freedom for them and their children.

Today, however, we find that the words of one of those Revolutionary heroes have not been taken seriously enough. He said: "The price of freedom is the eternal vigilance of the people." We must confess that as a people we haven't been vigilant and watchful. We have allowed NINE old men to become NINE despotic kings in the place of the one king our forefathers displaced.

These gentlemen make up the United States Supreme Court. They have arrogated to themselves the right to say yes or nay to the will of the people. We have elected representatives to the halls of Congress to pass legislation which the people want. But the nine despotic judges say that it does not matter what the people want. It is up to them from their high seats and in their purple robes, to say what is good for the people. The U. S. Constitution behind which they hide their tyranny, never gave them this right. It is merely something which they have taken for themselves.

The Guffey Act was, to our mind, not all that it should be. It guaranteed the right of the coal miners to organize, but it did not enforce this right. It was passed however by elected representatives of the people.

But the Supreme Court has killed that act. The vote was 6 to 2. The majority claimed that Congress has no right to pass laws which regulate the coal industry and no right to pass laws which fix the hours and wages of labor in the coal industry. Not a single judge defended the right of Congress to protect labor, although some of them did hold that Congress could regulate industry providing that regulation aided the operators by fixing prices.

They said that legislation affecting hours and wages of the workers and the right of labor to organize was entirely up to the states and not up to Congress.

**T**HREE weeks later, however, these nine old men passed on another law. This time it was the minimum wage law of the state of New York, passed by the elected representatives of the people of New York. The law set a minimum wage for women working in industry and involved specifically whether the state could say that women working in hot, stinking laundries should be protected from starvation wages.

The court said: "No." The score was 5 to 4.

First they said that social legislation affecting labor was up to the states. Then they said that it was unconstitutional for the states to do anything about it.

The bankers, employers, coal operators and mill owners are pleased with these decisions. The Republican Liberty League bunch is overjoyed. They see that the fascist government which they are trying to put across is being handled for them by the Supreme Court.

But what of the common people, the workers, the farmers and middle classes? What shall they say about the growing power of these nine despots?

It is important that they speak out and take action. As matter stand now, no social legislation such as the Wagner Labor Disputes Act, unemployment insurance, old age pensions, or any other laws helping the common people, have a ghost of a chance with these Tories.

A powerful movement must spring into action. Congress and the president must be forced to:

- 1.—Repudiate the right of the Supreme Court to declare laws unconstitutional.
- 2.—Impeach judges who usurp the democratic rights of the people.
- 3.—Amend the Constitution to prohibit the Supreme Court from declaring laws unconstitutional.

And finally, in every state, let us build a Farmer-Labor Party and elect our own representatives to Congress and to the state legislatures.