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Raimund Miners Gather Forces For New Struggle

BESSEMER, Ala.—Betrayed by top officials of the union and by the Regional Labor Board, the miners of the Raimund ore mine here are gathering their forces for renewed struggle against the Republic Iron and Steel Corporation.

After a strike lasting for about seven weeks, the big officials of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers have agreed to send the men back to work without having won a single demand.

The developments at the Raimund mine have shown clearly that only the Communist Party and the revolutionary unions and opposition groups can and will lead a struggle for better conditions on the job. The Communist Party groups in the Raimund mine have exposed the sell-out and the rotten conditions in the mine, and are organizing for real struggle against the bosses under rank and file leadership. The strike at the Raimund has shown the Communist Party as the only political party putting up a fight for the right of the workers to organize into unions of their choice.

Labor Board for Bosses
The Regional Labor Board in Atlanta, instrument of the NRA and

WILLIE PETERSON



This framed coal miner and war veteran now lives, suffering from incurable tuberculosis, in the death-house of Kilby Prison, Montgomery, Ala. Peterson was betrayed by the NAACP misleaders, but a delegation of the I. L. D., which will include his wife, will demand his freedom at an open hearing before Governor Miller on Feb. 6. (Story and his wife's statement on page 2.)

the bosses, has made a decision which pretends to force recognition of the union, but actually does nothing of the sort. The Republic Steel Corporation, owner of the Raimund mine, has refused even to meet with the representatives of the union.

The big officials are now trying to spread the idea that the National Labor Board will force the Republic bosses to recognize the union.
(continued on p. 2)

Rome, Ga., Foundry Workers On Strike For Higher Wages

ROME, Ga.—Between 400 and 500 men are out on strike from four of the five foundries here. For eight weeks they have fought tooth and nail against the bosses, stopping production completely. The attempts of the bosses to send out material have been stopped by the pickets.

Six months ago, the men organized in the Iron Molders Union (A. F. of L.), set up shop committees, and won some small concessions from the company. But the men were not getting union rates, so they came out on strike. The Eagle Stove Works pays 80 per cent on the board price. The other foundries were paying 25 per cent on the board price with the exception of the Hanks Stove and Range Co., which paid 40 per cent.

The Southern Co-operative Foundry was the first to come out on strike. The workers demanded increases in the board prices, an increase on the percentage from 25 to 60, and better regulations of board prices on odd parts. When the board price was too low, it also cut their percentage, so the molders got it in the neck two ways.

No Support from Top Officials
Did the National Office of the I. M. U. support the men? No. They used excuses about "broken
(continued on p. 2)

"TURN OVER WAR FUNDS TO FEED UNEMPLOYED," SAYS JOBLESS MEETING



LEROY H. LARSEN, workers candidate for mayor of New Orleans on the ticket of the Communist Party, Larsen is secretary of the Unemployed Council. The Communist platform calls for cash unemployment relief and jobless insurance, better working conditions and more pay on the job, and equal rights for Negroes.

Delegates From South Pour into Washington, D. C.

"Not one man, woman or child without decent food, shelter and clothing" is the cry of the elected delegates of the jobless workers of the country, as they gather in Washington, D. C., for the great National Convention against Unemployment. The convention opens Feb. 9 and will hold sessions for three days.

Immediate cash aid to the jobless, continuation and extension of CWA work without discrimination against any section of the country or any race, and the immediate passage by Congress of the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill, which will guarantee cash relief equal to full-time wages to all workers during periods of unemployment—these are the main demands of the Washington conference.

South Sends Representatives
As this issue of THE SOUTHERN WORKER goes to press, delegates from at least 30 states are moving towards Washington on freight trains, in cars, trucks and even on foot. Representatives of the hard-hit jobless workers of the South will come from Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Virginia.

The Southern jobless are having a tougher time than the unemployed in any other part of the country. The Federal Civil Works Administration has decreed the following wage scale:

Southern Zone
Skilled labor, \$1 per hour
Unskilled labor, 40c per hour
Northern Zone
Skilled labor, \$1.20 per hour
Unskilled labor, 50c per hour
The latest step in Roosevelt's
(continued on p. 2)

DEPUTY MURDERS KENTUCKY MINE STRIKE PICKET

PIKEVILLE, Ky.—Perry Adkins, 45-year-old mine striker, was murdered by Deputy Sheriff Williamson on Jan. 28, when deputies attacked the pickets at the Edgewater Coal Company's mine at Henry Co.

Another striker, Avery Hill, was severely wounded by Williamson a few moments later.

The strike broke out during the last week in January, when the company fired Wash Kinney, a local leader in the U. M. W. of A. About 500 miners are out.

(A miner correspondent from Pikeville writes in this issue on conditions in the Kentucky-Tennessee coal fields. See page 1.)

EX-KLANSMEN DENOUNCE K. K. K., JOIN COMMUNIST PARTY

By NAT ROSS
(District Organizer, B'ham District of the Communist Party)

A new day of freedom is dawning for the South. The prison-like condition of the Southern working people will not last forever. For the first time, considerable numbers of white workers are moving toward revolutionary action. Southern white workers are joining the Communist Party, on the basis of the closest unity and solidarity with the Negro people.

The Southern landlords and capitalists and their newspapers, have lyingly called the Communist Party a "nigger Party." They do not say that the Communist Party is proud of the fact that the most militant and advanced of the Negro people are members of the Communist Party. And the big officials of the Socialist Party, the American Federation of Labor, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will say that the Communist Party is stirring up race hatred, and will never win the white workers. They say that the Communist Party program of 100 per cent absolute equality for the Negro people, and the right of self-determination (freedom) for the Black Belt, will never be accepted by the white toilers.

But history is proving that whoever says this, is either a liar,

an enemy of the working people, or both. In the single month of January, 1934, about as many white workers joined the Communist Party in District 17 (the Birmingham District) as during the entire year of 1933. This is only the beginning. These workers have joined the Communist Party because of its position on the Negro question. They see that only the Communist Party is able to destroy race prejudice, and establish working-class unity. They see that lynching and Jim-Crowism and the inhuman persecution of the Negro masses, are used by the rich parasites to slavishly exploit the Negro. And they see that this is the reason for the NRA wage differential for the South, and the worse conditions here on the CWA, not only for the Negroes, but also for the white workers. They see that only the Communist Party is capable of developing a powerful trade union movement of millions, which will lead militant struggles and strikes, which will help to destroy lynching and inequality, as it destroys at the same time the rotten conditions and the wage differentials for the South.

White Workers Turning Communist

A large number of the white workers who join the Communist Party belonged to various organizations. Quite a few were former

members of the KKK. But these workers have seen that the main purpose of the Klan, in spite of some of its pledges, is to help in the oppression and lynching of Negroes, in order to keep Southern labor divided among itself. These workers have seen how such a policy has aided the bosses in keeping the white workers down too, and they now completely abandon the Klan and turn their backs on it. And since the Klan is beginning to increase its fascist and murderous activities against the revolutionary movement, it is interesting to see that no one condemns the rottenness of the Klan more than these honest workers, who left the Klan and joined the Communist Party.

Whites and Negroes Defy Klan

Recently, the Klan in Birmingham, which is led by police stool pigeons, and other drunken and racketeer elements, burned a cross in front of the house where white and Negro workers were holding an unemployed meeting. One of the white workers ran out, picked up the burning cross, and threw it at one of the Klan cars as it was speeding away. Another white worker, a former Klansman, declared that the meeting would go on, and that the workers present would prevent the Klan or anybody else from breaking into the house to interfere with the meet-

ing. The Communist Party in the South is the Party of the southern workers. About 95 per cent of its members are native Americans, and southern-born. The Communist Party is the most American and the most Southern organization in the South. It alone carries on the finest revolutionary traditions of the American people. It alone can free the people of the South. And at the same time, the Communist Party is the only international organization, uniting the working people of all nations and all races on an equal basis. It alone can free the working people of the South, the U. S. and the entire capitalist world.

The rich rulers of the South are insulting the working people by denying them civilized rights, closing the schools, starving them. The revolutionary struggle, led by the Communist Party, can and will destroy this hell and build a heaven for the Southern working people right here in Dixie.

It will be a tough fight, but we will surely win. That's why we need all militant workers and busied farmers, both white and Negro, in the Communist Party. And above all we need the workers in the big industries and the A. F. of L. and other unions.

JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY!

N. A. A. C. P. MISLEADERS BETRAY PETERSON IN DEATH CELL

Bankhead Bill Is Death Warrant For Small Growers

By A. M. (Secretary of Sharecroppers Union)

Not satisfied with a cotton-crop program that is throwing thousands of tenants and croppers off the land to starve, the federal government is now considering the Bankhead bill—a bill to limit the number of bales any one farmer can raise.

The bill, which was proposed by Senator J. H. Bankhead of Alabama—is a DEATH WARRANT for the Black Belt croppers and tenants. No farmer may bring to the gin more than the number of bales allotted him, or, if he does want to gin more, the tax will be so high that it won't be worthwhile.

Landlords Have Say So

The government is sending out questionnaires to the cotton growers, on the Bankhead bill. Who gets these questionnaires? The tenants? The croppers? Not a chance. The questionnaires are answered by the landlords and big independent farmers.

If the Bankhead bill goes through, the government will let the landlords raise a big quota of cotton. But to the small farmer, the government will say, "You can't raise a crop this year. We'll allow you a couple of bales, maybe. Perhaps you have no other means of living. Probably your family will starve, but we can't worry about that. Our job is to cut down the cotton crop so the price will go up—for those who will still be allowed to raise the cotton."

Only for the cotton belt has the government even considered such a plan. It has not been tried in the wheat fields (nor in any other section of the country) and the reason is plain. The sharecroppers and tenant farmers of the South are kept in bondage to the landlords by race oppression and by debt-slavery. The fight held the landlord class has on the Negro croppers makes it easy to cut down the bales—by simply forbidding the poor farmers, the croppers and the tenants from raising much of a crop or any crop at all. The whole system of debt-slavery and race oppression comes to the landlords' aid.

Landlords Steal Gov't Checks

The sharecroppers were forced to plow their cotton under and to sign the crooked deal contracts made between the landlords and their government. They were forced to sign the checks against their will. The sharecroppers have for the most part never received their share of the allotment checks. They were robbed of their share by the landlords, who refused to give it to them, but put their share on back "debts" that have been held against the croppers for years. Negro croppers, especially, were not even allowed to question the landlords about their share of the allotment check which was promised them. Croppers who protested against being robbed this way, were threatened with immediate eviction from the land, stoppage of furnishings and attachment of their possessions.

The part of the cotton plowed under was the croppers' part. The

I. L. D. Delegation Carries Fight To Governor Miller

A delegation of white and Negro workers and intellectuals including Mrs. Henrietta Peterson, will appear before Gov. B. M. Miller in Montgomery, Ala., on Feb. 6, to demand immediate and unconditional freedom for Willie Peterson, framed-up Negro coal miner and war veteran.

Betrayed in his two-and-a-half year fight for life and freedom by the "respectable" top leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Peterson has been sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison on Feb. 16. The "clemency" hearing granted for Feb. 6 is the result of the mass protest roused and led by the International Labor Defense before and after Mrs. Peterson asked for the aid of the I. L. D. to save her innocent husband.

Betrayed by NAACP

It is not known whether the NAACP misleaders will even bother with further steps in their pretense of defending Peterson. Throughout the two-and-a-half year fight for his freedom, their policy has been to quietly muffle sensational evidence, to keep down the great indignation of the masses of workers and to hold the case in proper legal channels—channels which everyone knows are set to lead directly to the elec-

tric chair for a Negro in the South. Her husband already sentenced to die, and the "nice" heads of the NAACP still holding protest Mrs. Henrietta Peterson issued a stirring appeal to members and followers of the I. L. D. to save this innocent worker's life. The answer was a renewed wave of protest. Gov. Miller's office was flooded with resolutions from all over the South. A great wave of indignation rose from both white and Negro workers. This was not "nice" but it was effective.

A stay of execution was granted by the Governor and a "clemency" hearing set. Sheriff Hawkins, who had been part of the bunch that originally framed Peterson and in whose third degree chambers the prisoner was wounded by Dent Williams, friend of Hawkins, lyingly came out then and insisted that he "thought" Peterson innocent.

Hawkins' Move Insincere

"This move on the part of Hawkins is simply an insincere attempt to gain the confidence of the masses

of workers who know Peterson is innocent," an I. L. D. state news said. Hawkins has political ambitions which clearly explain this action. Nevertheless, the very fact that he and others of his sort have made such statements shows how tremendous is the mass protest campaign. These fakery know that the workers will no longer be taken back, so they resort to sugary words, they try to head the movement for Peterson's freedom—but only to betray it, only to finally betray Peterson and all that the fight for his freedom stands for.

Peterson Can Be Saved

Pointing out that the struggle can yet be won, that this innocent worker's life can yet be saved, the I. L. D. Southern District, from its office at 2911 1/2 5th Ave., Birmingham, called for thousands of new protests against this frame-up to pour in upon Gov. B. M. Miller demanding immediate and unconditional freedom for Willie Peterson and supporting the I. L. D. delegation on Feb. 6. Churches, lodges, trade unions, neighborhood and shop groups, white and Negro, must join in this fight of all workers. Pennies, nickels, dimes and dollars must be collected everywhere and rushed in so that the delegation will be able to go to Montgomery. This is your fight," the I. L. D. says to all workers and honest people, Negro and white. "Stop this legal lynching!"

"SAVE HIM BY YOUR PROTEST AND OUTCRY"—Mrs. Peterson

"I want to appeal to the entire Negro people, to the workers, white and black, and to all sympathizers of right and justice, to unite now to save my innocent husband, Willie Peterson, who was framed up two and a half years ago. He is now sentenced to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison, Montgomery, on Feb. 16, unless you all unite to save him by your protest and outcry against the planned killing. Willie Peterson is innocent. Everybody knows he is an innocent, tubercular war veteran and a good man. The courts have failed to save him. Lawyers are not enough. Only our outcry will stop this electrocution. Protest to Governor Miller. Let our voices be heard. "While the legal defense of my husband is still in the hands of the NAACP, I fully endorse and will aid in any way I can, the mass defense and protest campaign of the International Labor Defense to save Willie Peterson from execution, Feb. 16, and ask the financial and moral aid of every believer in right and justice."

Mrs. Henrietta Peterson.

more about ROME STRIKE

(continued from p. 1)

rules" and refused to pay the strikers the \$9 a week they were supposed to get. They tried to send the men back to work. The men refused to go.

Finally the big officials got the men to go back to work pending decision of the National Labor Board. Now the men realize that the Board is made up of bosses and their agents, and are preparing for further action.

Foundrymen's Ass'n. Scabs

The Southern Foundrymen's Association has been helping out the bosses in the striking foundries by arranging to have other foundries fill their orders.

Rome is the foundry center of the South. This strike will determine piece rates and the percentages to be paid to the workers all through the industry. It is of the greatest importance that they win their strike.

part that was picked, ginned and sold was the landlords' part.

Thrown Out to Starve

Evicted sharecroppers and unemployed farmhands from the cotton belt are counted by the thousands, seeking employment on RFC and CWA jobs, only to receive a slip of paper telling them to come back some other time.

The Share Croppers Union is organizing the Negro and white sharecroppers and is preparing for giant struggles against the whole Roosevelt-landlord program for 1934. It is now organizing anti-eviction committees, composed of sharecroppers and tenants in the cropper communities, to fight off eviction.

more about JOBLESS MEET

(continued from p. 1)

program of hunger and war is to slash the miserably low wages of the CWA workers to a lower starvation level. The CWA workers in cities of 2500 population or more have been cut to 24 hours a week. Rural CWA workers have been cut to 15 hours a week.

Program Helps Landlords

This is only the first step in doing away with CWA work altogether. Roosevelt has announced that the CWA program is to taper off between February and May. The work will stop earlier in the South, so that the landlords can have plenty of cheap labor for plowing and planting. The hand of the landlords is also clearly to be seen in the 15-hour week for workers in the country-side.

Roosevelt's talk about these workers being taken back into private industry is a plain lie. The industries are not expanding. The few orders they get are filled by the workers now on the job, who are speeded up beyond human strength.

In the South, particularly, the CWA and other relief agencies reek with favoritism, graft and corruption. In city after city, the jobless have stormed the CWA headquarters demanding jobs and decent pay.

Third National Meeting

This is the third winter that the delegates of the unemployed from all over the country are meeting in Washington to press their demands. In 1931 and 1932, great hunger marches took place. What

more about RAIMUND MINE

(continued from p. 1)

nize the union. This board is just one more tool of the bosses, and waiting passively for the board's decision is just losing time and strength. Only the miners themselves, by organization and action, can get recognition for their union.

Norman Thompson, superintendent of the mine, who started a system of speed-up and wage-cuts, is still on the job. The mine still has the same check-weighman who has been cheating the miners.

Top Officials Sell Out

In the face of a strong desire on the part of the men to continue the fight until gains are won, the biggest union officials have agreed with the bosses to send them back.

The conditions in the Raimund mine before the strike—conditions which have not been changed due to the sell-out—are described by the miners as follows:

No Pay For Dead Work

"We used to get a definite daily wage, but under the new system, we can't tell what we make. They make the miners do all sorts of extra work. For this we don't get a cent of pay, but it keeps us back from making tonnage.

"They took the mule boy away and made the mucker be a mule boy and muck at the same time.

"When we were on company work, the muckers, for instance, could make \$5.25 a day. Now they make about \$1 a day. And they load more ore than ever.

"They are using the track men on the main line. The men inside sometimes get track and sometimes not. They have to make muckers tote ties, pull spikes and fix track.

"The tonnage we do make, in spite of all the dead work, we get cheated on the scale weight.

"The bosses don't pay a cent for yardage any more. If we come to slate, we just have to move it.

"The company makes big stoppages from our pay."

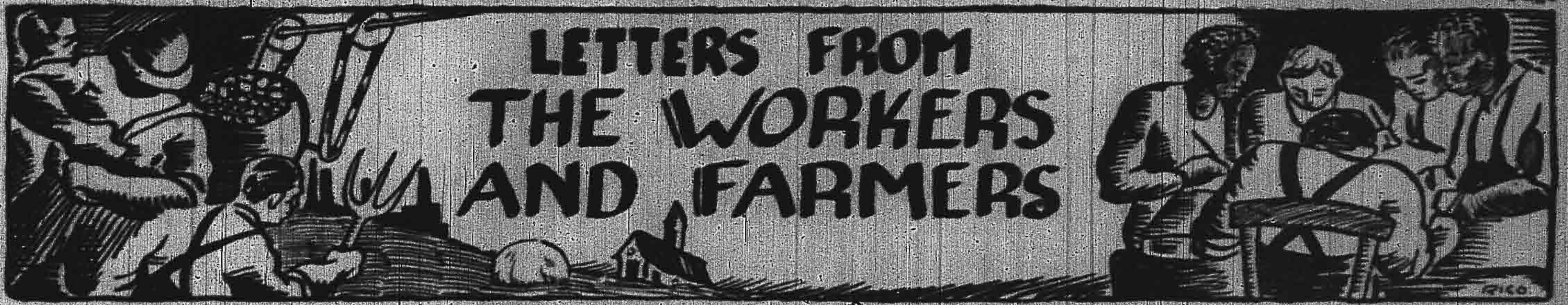
ever relief the jobless are now getting, is due directly to these marches and to other organized actions of the workers. This year's convention, like the hunger marches of 1931 and 1932, is under the leadership of the National Committee of Unemployed Councils. Like the hunger marches, the convention will include white and Negro, men and women. Northern, Southern and Western workers.

The chief demand of the convention will be that Congress pass the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill. This bill provides that every worker in the country shall receive during periods of unemployment a sum equal to his full-time wages, but in no case less than \$10 a week. That this money shall be paid out for the entire period of unemployment. The bill provides against discrimination on account of race, color, creed or sex. The funds for jobless insurance are to be raised through heavy taxes on high incomes and on the profits of the big corporations, and by turning over the enormous sums set aside for war purposes, to take care of the jobless.

NORFOLK DOCK MEN WIN STRIKE

NORFOLK, Va.—Three hundred men at the Old Dominion Dock, Local 1223 of the International Longshoremen's Association, went on strike in January and won their demand. The strike was carried on by the men over the heads of the big I. L. A. officials, Millner and Co.

The men demanded that the boss be fired for his brutal handling of the men. The company removed him. The men went back to work, but they are letting it be known that they are not nailed there.



PIEDMONT MILL CUTS PAY AGAIN

(By a Piedmont Mill Correspondent)

ATLANTA, Ga.—We workers in the Piedmont mill are getting still another wage cut. Throughout the mill, with the exception of the winding room, we are being put on a five-hour shift, only one shift a day, for four or five days a week. The hands that get off the most production will be put on this shift, and the others will be laid off. The supervisors around here to find out if the hands are getting off production, because if they aren't they will be fired. This is the speed-up and treach-out. The machines in the spinning room are speeded up so that it is impossible to keep the machinery clean.

Luxury for Mr. Tift

We will only be making \$5 to \$8 a week. But some of the workers in the Piedmont mill get as low as \$1.99 a week. How do the bosses expect us to live on that? Mr. Tift lives in a nice house in town and has plenty of everything. What does he care how we workers suffer in misery? Everything he got was sweated out of us starving workers. And we are bound to him like slaves, because we have to have some work or we would starve to death.

A couple weeks ago a fuse blew out and all the machinery stopped. We workers had to wait two hours till they got it fixed, and we did not get paid for the two hours we waited. Then we had to work two hours overtime the next day to make it up, so the night shift had to wait two hours without pay and they had to work an hour longer at night. If we were organized, they couldn't do this to us.

Mill Village All Run Down

The workers' homes in the mill village are all run down and dilapidated. There aren't any bathtubs. Two families live in the four-room houses, and three families live in six-room houses. The toilets are nothing but little shacks behind the houses.

The big boss Tift came around the other day and said to keep the floors and machines cleaner. But he never said that until THE SOUTHERN WORKER exposed the dirty, filthy conditions around the mill. But Tift didn't hire any more workers to keep the mill clean. When visitors come to the mill, the workers have to stop the machines and clean up because the bosses are ashamed to have outsiders see the dirt and filth. But the bosses do not care about us workers, who are broken in health because we work in this dirt and filth.

One thing they had to do after the SOUTHERN WORKER write-up, was to clean up the toilets. The toilets have been

"Southern Worker" Forces Foreman to Quit Speeding Up

(By a Dudley Bar Mill Correspondent)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—I am writing to tell you how the SOUTHERN WORKER helped us in our struggle to get better conditions in the mill.

In the last issue there was an article about how our wages were cut to \$1.50, and how we are pressed to death by our superintendent.

Well, since that time our wages have been raised to \$2.15. The foreman called us all together one day and showed us the piece in the SOUTHERN WORKER about how he is rushing us. He said, "Listen, boys, don't write things like that in the paper. If you want to take your time, go ahead." So since then we have slowed down considerably and he doesn't dare to press us so.

MILL COMMITTEE MAKES BOSSES PUT UP TIME-SHEETS

(By a Textile Worker)

CONCORD, N. C.—I work in the Locke mill here. I see the cost of food and clothing going up every day, but my wages stand still. We only work three and four days a week.

The lights are so bad in the mill that we are ruining our eyes.

When it is raining we have to stand in the rain and wait until they open the gate at the mills. If the bosses had to stand out in the rain, they would make some changes in this.

Struggle Can Win Real Gains

Now I know that by joining a real union, controlled by the workers themselves, we could win real gains. There is such a union, the National Textile Workers Union. In the Gibson and Cannon mills we have mill committees of the National Textile Workers Union, that forced the bosses to put up time-sheets. In the Gibson mill, this committee forced the bosses to stop starting up the machines four or five minutes ahead of schedule.

cleaned, the floor is dry and the toilets actually work now.

A. F. of L. Officials Do Nothing

The workers that joined the A. F. of L. and paid their dues are not getting any better conditions. They are paying the \$20,000 a year salary of President Green. Why don't these officials force the bosses to give us more pay? They don't care about us. We will have to organize our union under rank and file leadership so we can fight for these things. We must force the bosses to give us what we need.

KY.-TENN. MINERS GET IT IN NECK WHEN UMWA HEADS SIGN CONTRACT

(By a Miner Correspondent)

PINEVILLE, Ky.—I think it is time for us miners, especially in the Kentucky and Tennessee area, to take stock and see where we stand. We have been fed for months on promises. We were told the N. R. A. would force the operators to give us many things, the right to organize and bargain collectively, the right to join a union of our choice, and an increase in wages. The miners who had been black-listed were to be given jobs.

The big U. M. W. of A. officials came back into the field when the N. R. A. was passed. This was the same gang that signed the notorious agreement with Governor Laffoon of Kentucky in 1931 to bring the mines into Harlan County. This gang ran away and left the miners to the tender mercies of John Henry Blair and his gunmen. The strike left 2,000 men black-listed. Now after all their betrayals, these fakers came back and told the men to sign up with them, that just signing up, with no struggle at all, would get them \$5 a day for a 6-hour day.

Big Officials Let Men Be Fired

Then what happened? The operators began to fire the men right and left. Did the U. M. W. of A. officials do anything about it? The answer is, No! Were the rank and file miners allowed to strike and get the men back on? Again, No! The U. M. W. of A. officials said that would be breaking the code. They said they would give us a



"It rains inside the house and leaks outside," say the workers in the TCI company patches. Besides leaky roofs, the TCI houses have other "conveniences," such as no electricity or hot water.

The company takes the rent out of your pay check, and if the pay is so small that it only covers the rent—the company simply begs the whole thing. But just try to get them to make repairs!

The picture above shows a row of company houses belonging to the Easley (Birmingham) steel plant of the TCI. The steel mill is in the background. Note the unpaved road in front of the houses.

transfer card and we could go somewhere else. And that was all. Miners Get It In the Neck.

By and by the time came to make the contract. The hand-picked delegation went to Knoxville, but even they were not allowed to make the contract. Turnblazer made the whole thing, he came with it all ready made and ready for them to sign. Where was the promised raise? Where was the clause to make the operators take back the men they had fired? Where was the recognition of the union? The pay for dead work? The additional pay on the ton for coal that was sawed with a sawing machine? Where was the minimum wage? No place, no place, no place! We got it where the turkey got the axe.

Just a very few of the men got a little raise. But the vast majority of the miners got the same they were getting, in some mines they got wage-cuts, from one to two cents per ton. Coal loaders do not average \$2 per day.

Some of the locals wrote Lewis and said, "We want a district election. We want the removal of Turnblazer as district president." What was the answer? Mr. Lewis said, "You must respect Turnblazer."

Mass Strike Only Hope

Our only weapon for better conditions is the mass strike, and the big fakers in the U. M. W. of A. try to take that from us. In Straight Creek there are three mines where you have to join the company union, and some mines in Harlan County also have the company union.

Brothers, there are two kinds of unionism. One is the kind the big officials of the A. F. of L. and U. M. W. of A. believe in. They deny there are two classes of people, a working class and a capitalist class. The big pot-bellied fakers like Green and Lewis smoke sixty-cent cigars around a table with the boss and settle everything, and we rank and file union members are never consulted.

Two Kinds of People

The other kind of unionism knows very well that there are two classes, the working class who produce everything and have nothing, and the bosses who produce nothing and have everything.

The rank and file miners of the U. M. W. of A. are good union men. We are sick and tired of being betrayed. Our only hope of making the U. M. W. of A. a good weapon in our hands is to organize a strong opposition group in each local and aim to take over the local in our own hands.

Blast Furnace Crews Half Dead At End of Shift

(By an Easley Steel Mill Correspondent)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Since the N. R. A. steel code came into effect, the workers operating the blast furnaces in the Easley steel mill have become disgusted with the fake promises of more pay, shorter hours, and the right to bargain collectively.

Although the workers are now working 8 hours a day, 5 days a week with shift at the end of a shift the worker feels as if he had been through a week of misery. Here is one worker's account of it:

Smaller Crew, More Work

He begins work at 11 p. m. on the dot and quits at 7 a. m. Three others with him form the furnace-keeping crew. A white man acts as steam boss. These are the duties the crew of four men have to perform:

1. Keep the water circulating around the fire brick at all times, when furnace is operating. Before the N. R. A. one man was needed for this job alone. At times he needed help, and two were used when occasion required it.

2. Flashing ore furnace after each ore run. One or two men were needed for this job alone, before the N. R. A.

3. Tapping the furnace when ore is ready for run. The white crew is needed for this operation. It is hot, dangerous and delicate.

Fire Common Laborers

4. Filling the ore boxes during ore run, and then preparing the boxes when they are returned empty. Before the N. R. A. the furnace crew merely called in common labor help, and were allowed a little rest.

5. Cleaning the 120-foot area under. Before the N. R. A. common labor did this work also. Now the furnace-keeper crew has that pleasure.

6. General repair work about furnace and general clean-up. These workers must go get tools from the tool boxes, over 200 feet away when doing repair work.

The crew of four do the work of 12 or 15 men and have to do it efficiently or be laid off. It is no wonder this speed-up for eight hours without any rest leaves the crew half dead.

This is the N. R. A. code at the blast furnace of the Easley steel mill.

U. S. Steel, parent organization of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., made between 5 and 6 millions in profits during the last three months of 1933.

TCI workers of Birmingham, how many millions did YOU make?

THE SOUTHERN WORKER

The Paper of the Telling Masses of the South
Official Organ of the Communist Party of the United States
JIM MALLORY, EDITOR
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Volume III FEBRUARY 10, 1934 Number 11

Tax The Rich, Take The War Funds And Keep The Schools Open!

A sixteen-billion dollar war budget—and not one red cent to keep the schools open! Plenty of money for poison-gas and battleships—while our schools go broke and close their doors!

A good half of Alabama's public schools are shutting down. The situation in the other Southern States is just about as bad. "No money," say the state and federal officials. But this is about "no money" is a FLAT LIE! There is lots of money for war purposes. Right now the people who own our country—the big bosses and landlords—are preparing to plunge us into another world war, more terrible, more bloody than the last. The government that these bosses and landlords control will see to it that there is no lack of funds for such a war. For purposes like these, there is always money.

What is this talk about no money, anyway? During the last three months of 1933 alone, the U. S. Steel Company, parent organization of the TCI, made between five and six million dollars in profits out of its workers.

A tax on the TCI profits would keep the Alabama schools open. But do the Alabama officials ever mention taking some of the bosses' profits for such a purpose? Not for a minute! They have other schemes. In Montgomery, the city council proposes a 25 per cent increase in water rates to finance the schools. They propose to take the money out of the pockets of those least able to afford it—the workers and the unemployed. The workers on the job will find themselves harder pinched; more jobless homes will see the water being shut off. But the bosses' profits will be untouched.

We say: not one cent more out of the workers' pockets for the public school system. Take the money from the rich.

We call upon Governor Miller to convene a special session of the state legislature, and take the following steps to keep our schools open:

Put a heavy tax on the profits of the TCI, the Alabama Power, and other big corporations. Demand from the Roosevelt government enough funds to keep the schools running. Take the money that you have set aside for war—to kill and cripple people—and put it instead into the public schools. KEEP THE SCHOOLS OPEN!

ALABAMA RULERS PUSH PLANS FOR LEGAL MASSACRE FEBRUARY 9; I. L. D. SENDS PROTEST DELEGATION TO MONTGOMERY

After granting "clemency" hearings as a result of the mass protest aroused by the International Labor Defense against the planned legal lynching of nine Negroes on Feb. 9 at Kilby prison, Gov. B. M. Miller has refused to free the victims. With the purpose of burning these nine substitutes for the Scottsboro boys, who for three years now have been held from the electric chair by the strong arm of the working class, the Alabama ruling class still hopes to carry through this bloody example of their murder rule.

But there will not be nine victims on Feb. 9, for Louis Cunningham has "mysteriously" died in the death cell. Maybe he "knew too much." Maybe there was a chance of his talking even before the official lynching was set for Feb. 9. At any rate, he is now dead. This left eight in the death house.

Seven in the Death House

Floods of protests and resolutions from all over the country poured in upon the Governor when the I. L. D. issued the call for mass protest to stop the wholesale lynching. Forced by this protest to retreat another step, Gov. Miller commuted the sentence of Leo Fountain to life imprisonment in Alabama's hell-hole prisons. This

left seven in the death house.

A delegation is being organized by the I. L. D. to go to the capital in Montgomery on Feb. 9. It will demand that these remaining seven, one of them a woman, be snatched from the tortures of the electric chair. The delegation will include representatives of the I. L. D., and of the family of at least one of the Feb. 9 victims.

Protest the Legal Massacre
"Protests must swamp Gov. Miller's office," the I. L. D. Southern District said in a statement.

"We know that no one of these Negro people got a fair trial, could possibly have got a fair trial in any court in the South. Unless this barbaric mass murder is met with an even greater mass protest, the rulers will know no stopping point. Seven are left in the death house to die Feb. 9. They hope to leave the seat well warmed for the murder of Willie Peterson on the 15. And then—they hope—maybe Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris will be next. The Scottsboro boys and then—almost any worker who doesn't like starvation and misery, oppression and persecution.

"But this cannot be. We can and will halt this. This struggle is one for life and freedom of all workers and of the Negro people. Smash the lynch plans with

BOILERS ROUSED BY GEORGIA TERROR WAVE

ATLANTA, Ga.—"It is not the duty of the Governor of Georgia to take a hand in crimes committed unless they are unusual," said Gov. Eugene Talmage in refusing to do anything about the lynchings of an organized band of landlord whites who are attempting to terrorize Negro farm laborers and sharecroppers in Jefferson County. The Governor admitted that he had known of the five murders in and near Bartow which have been definitely established along with many beatings and many more threats, but seemed to consider this the "usual" thing in this landlord ruled state.

Trail of Death

The body of Ernest Bell, after being horribly mutilated, was tossed into a well by the cowardly murderers. The body of another Negro was found in a shallow well, with many bullets in the head and the throat cut. Will Walker died in an Augusta hospital after being fatally injured by a Bartow policeman. According to the coroner's jury, the other two men were killed "by parties unknown."

Although members of the lynch gang are known to Sheriff J. Smith, none have been arrested. Only Sam Outler, Negro companion of Ernest Bell, who was beaten when Bell was murdered, is held in the Jefferson County jail for "safe keeping." Outler's description of the crime which he told to Eskine Caldwell, editor of Georgia, well-known writer for the New Masses magazine, a revolutionary weekly, tells how a man named Bradley and a number of gang companions attacked them with iron pipes. Both Negroes were beaten unconscious.

Fake Investigators

Following the complete exposure of the reign of terror of the Jefferson County landlords in the New Masses, and a deluge of protests from International Labor Defense branches throughout the country, feckless attempts have been made by the authorities to pretend an "investigation"—in May. At the same time Marvin Cross, solicitor general of the district, Superior Court Judge R. N. Hardman and other officials, joined in vicious attempts to discredit Eskine Caldwell, whose home is in Vienna.

The Georgia section of the I. L. D. has issued thousands of leaflets, calling upon the workers to stop this lynching and to smash the terror of the landlords. The I. L. D. demands will be carried to Governor Talmage by a delegation.

Death to Lynchers

Death penalty for the lynchers! is one of the main demands. Other demands are:

Arrest and prosecution of all members of the lynch mobs as well as the officials responsible; the right of the Negro people of Jefferson County to be represented on the jury and to choose their own prosecutor; indemnities to the families and relatives of the lynch victims, to be paid by the State; and the disarming of the KKK landlord gangsters and the right of the Negroes and white sympathizers to armed defense.

hundreds of protests from churches, lodges, clubs, trade unions, from workers and sympathizers, white and colored, everywhere."

An Open Letter To The South

By LANGSTON HUGHES

White workers of the South:
Miners,
Farmers,
Mechanics,
Millhands,
Shop girls,
Railway men,
Servants,
Tobacco workers,
Share croppers,
GRIETINGS
I am the black worker.
Listen:



LANGSTON HUGHES
Famous poet, and president of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights.

That the land might be ours,
And the mines and the factories
and the office towers
At Harlan, Richmond, Gastonia,
Atlanta, New Orleans;
That the plants, and the roads and
the tools of power
Be ours!

Let us forget what Booker T. said,
"Separate as the fingers."
He knew he lied.

Let us become instead, you and I,
One single hand
That can united rise
To smash the old dead dogmas of the past—
To kill the lies of color.
That keep the rich enthroned
And drive us to the time-clock and the plow.
Helpless, stupid, scattered, and alone—as now—
Race against race,
Because one is black,
Another white of face.

Let us new lessons learn,
All workers,
New life-ways make,
One union form:
Until the future burns out
Every past mistake,
Let us get together, say:
"You are my brother, black or white,
You are my sister—now—today!"

For me, no more the great migration to the North,
Instead: Migration into force and power—
Tuskegee with a red flag on the tower!
On every lynching tree, a poster crying FREE
Because, O poor white workers,
You have linked your hands with me.

We did not know that we were brothers,
Now we know!
Out of that brotherhood
Let power grow!
We did not know
That we were strong,
Now we see
In union lies our strength.
Let union be
The force that breaks the time-clock
Smashes misery,
Takes land,
Takes factories,
Takes office towers,
Takes tools and banks and mines,
Railroads, ships and dams—
Until the forces of the world
Are ours!

White worker,
Here is my hand.
Today,
We're Man to Man.

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