

White and  
Colored Workers,  
Unite!

# SOUTHERN WORKER

Issued Weekly by Communist Party of U. S. A.

Don't Starve—  
Fight for Social  
Insurance!

Volume 1, No. 19.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 27, 1930

2 Cents a Copy

## NEW STRETCH- OUT COMING IN ELIZABETHTON

By a Worker Correspondent  
Elizabethton, Tenn.

Saw your paper, the SOUTHERN WORKER, in the Glanstoff mill, and say, it stands for just the kind of organization us workers should have had here long ago.

During the strike in 1929, one of your National Textile Workers organizers was in Elizabethton and warned us against the United Textile Workers Union, that is part of the American Fakeration of Labor, that they would sell us out. We can see this very plainly now, for after we had the strike won these fakers, Paul Aymon, McGrady and Hoffman, together with a faker sent out by the U. S. Department of Labor, Anne Weinstock, made an agreement with the company that those workers undesirable to the company would not be taken back.

### All Reds

And today 2,000 workers are black-listed. Paul Aymon was up here together with the Fish committee looking for reds, but today we are all reds. We know that only by joining an organization that fights the bosses can we win, and not an organization that agrees with the bosses promising them if they will only give the labor fakers an agreement the workers are ignorant enough to be speeded up and like it.

There are many of us workers knowing that the United Textile Workers was a fake organization, stayed in and scabbed during the 1930 strike. We made a mistake in not coming out on strike with the other workers and kicking out these fake A. F. of L. leaders. There are other workers who listened to the company's promises that they would take care of them if they stood by the company. But now the company thinks that because they have a sheriff who said he would arrest every labor organizer who came in and they think they now have a god crew of desirables, that they can get by with another stretchout.

### Organizing Now

We heard that on January 1st they would start another unit and the same crew of men and women will work both units. That means twice as much work for only \$2 a week more.

Right now we are organizing, building our shop committees, and this time we will give them a good fight. Will write more and thru the columns of your paper call on working men and women to organize the National Textile Workers' Union and get ready for the big struggle.

—Glanstoff Worker.

## BRUTAL MURDER ON CHAIN GANG

ATLANTA, Ga.—A month after the brutal murder of Hoke Cantrell, a white chain gang prisoner at La-Fayette, by the deputy convict warden of Walker county, has the state prison commission let the fact be known.

From other chaingang prisoners at the same road camp it finally leaked out that Cantrell was first blackjacked over the head a few times during the afternoon of the day of the killing; that Cooper, the convict warden, chained the prisoner around the neck, wrists and feet, so that he could not

## 5,000 White and Negro Workers In B'ham Protest Unemployment

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— Boss race prejudice did not succeed in dividing 5,000 unemployed white and Negro workers gathered last week seeking jobs at the new overhead bridge at 18th street.

### Boss Picks Pets

Instead the white and Negro workers together, demonstrated in militant action that they were not going to peacefully stand by and starve or be forced into starvation by miserable wages on a speed-up job. They showed the bosses of Birmingham that no race division was going to stand between them and a united struggle again. starvation.

About 5,000 workers, two-thirds of them Negroes, had gathered on the over-head bridge job on Monday morning when the work was scheduled to begin. The boss began going thru the crowd picking out old stand-bys who would work cheap and hard. This made the rest of the Negro and white workers mad and they crowded



March Past the Fakers an into the T. U. U. L.!

around him. The boss started to plead with them, threatening to hire no one but he became frightened at the demands of these hungry men for jobs and fled.

### Organize Demonstration

In the meantime a young Negro worker, a member of the Young Communist League, went thru the crowd, rallying the workers for a demonstration for work or wages, turn it into a mass protest against unemployment. The cry was picked up by about 4000

## REDS POLLED 3,392 VOTES IN TENNESSEE

The final count in the Nov. 4 elections in Tennessee gives the Communist candidate for senate, Negro worker, Sherman Bell, 3,382 votes. Saml. Borenstein, Communist candidate for Governor running against the political faker and crook, Horton, received 1,296 votes.

The final Communist returns which were just released by the state Board of Elections, even tho they are undoubtedly not complete because of the great number not counted and stolen in the corrupt elections, demonstrate the rapidly growing influence of the Communist Party program of struggle among the workers and farmers of Tennessee.

The Communist vote was scattered thruout the state and include many farmer as well as workers' votes, indicating their willingness to fight, Negro and white together, under the leadership of the Communist Party against the boss starvation system.

### WORKERS INVITED

GALESTON, Tex.— All workers are invited to attend the educational meetings held every Sunday afternoon at the Marine Workers Industrial Union headquarters, 608 24th Street.

## Funds Must Rush In To Keep "SW"

Unless our readers rush in funds immediately, there will be no SOUTHERN WORKER next week.

This issue came out only because of a last minute donation from workers in the North.

If a 49 - year - old crippled worker in Sturgis, Mich., can find 28 cents to rush in to the SOUTHERN WORKER because he can't do without the paper, then every reader of our paper especially the Southern workers, can do likewise.

A Negro worker of Houma, La., in prison at Comstock, N. Y., writes us: "It breaks my heart to tell you the SOUTHERN WORKER is not allowed in this prison. It's the only paper in the world I enjoy."

This worker can't read the paper be-

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of both white and Negro workers, who marched down 18 Street after the boss, blocking the streets and sidewalks in a protest march.

To escape the menacing demonstration the boss, guarded by three pimp stool-pigeons (whom he had promised jobs) rushed into the Hotel Morris a jim-crow house, thinking the workers wouldn't dare follow him. But the workers marched right into the lobby, packing the entrance.

### Speaks in Jim-Crow Hotel

Here the young Negro worker, a member of the Young Communist League, asked the white workers if they would stand by him if he spoke. The answer was a unanimous yes. Right in the jim-crow hotel lobby, the young Negro worker addressed the crowd of unemployed for over five minutes, explaining the reasons for unemployment and the rotten conditions. He especially pointed out how the bosses try to use race prejudice

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## Money For War, But None For The Unemployed

WASHINGTON, D. C. — While Hoover sings his paltry fake relief bills, Admiral William V. Pratt announces that \$1,100,000,000.00 will be spent by the government for building new battleships and cruisers.

No money goes to the unemployed or the starving farmers—fake promises and seed are good enough for them—but over a billion dollars will be spent preparing for the next war.

Workers, white and colored, thruout the country, must unite in determined struggle against this boss outrage, must force these war funds to be turned over to the millions of starving working class people. Over a million workers are signing the petition of the Unemployed Councils of the Trade Union Unity League for Unemployment Insurance, to be presented to Congress in January. This bill provides that the war funds be turned over to workers' committees, who will dispense it in the form of unemployment insurance payments.

### DIE FIGHTING!

GALVESTON, Texas. — Knute Haukness, seaman, committed suicide in his room here, when he could not find a job.

## LANDLORD KILLS FARM WORKER

ASHLAND, Miss.—The most brutal murder of a 16-year-old farm worker by his landlord was revealed here with the arrest of Jodie Brent, Landlord, of Winborn, Miss.

The body of Clarence Farrow, the boy farm-laborer, was found near a pile of rocks on the Brent plantation. At first Brent said that the boy had died from meningitis, but when it was discovered that the boy had a fractured skull, the slave-driving landlord said that the boy had fallen from a tree in an epileptic fit.

Farm workers and farmers in the vicinity, however, tell how Brent

## 68 BANKS IN WEEK BEFORE X-MAS CLOSED

During the week of Dec. 15th, 68 banks, with total deposits of about \$25,000,000 were reported to have closed their doors to protect big depositors at the expense of the hard-earned savings of workers and farmers. Most of the closed banks are located in the South.

### More Suffering

The closing of these banks, showing the increasing crisis and the inability of the Federal Reserve system to bolster them up, means for the workers and farmers more poverty and suffering, more unemployment, and lower wages and more speed-up as the bosses try to protect their profits at the expense of the workers.

In many cases the closing of the banks exposed the rottenest kind of graft by city government officials, who have sunk millions of dollars into the banks in an effort to keep their banker friends going, while a few miserly meal tickets are handed out amongst the army of the unemployed.

### Boss Santa Claus

Many of these banks took with them the savings so painfully put away out of the meagre wages by thousands of workers for Christmas. That was the Santa Claus gift of capitalism.

In Arkansas, where over 60 banks closed in one day a few weeks ago, 12 more banks closed their doors on December 17. Most of these banks are located in the cotton areas, and many small farmers will be minus their farms and all their belongings by the time the State Banking Department gets thru "protecting" the depositors. Most of the small banks closing are located in the cotton and tobacco areas of North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Southern Georgia.

### Textile Workers Hit

In Gastonia, N. C., textile center four banks closed their doors in one day, taking with them whatever pennies the part-time and low-paid textile workers may have put away for Christmas. The same old story of "protecting depositors" will turn out to mean the mulcting of the small worker-depositors to pay off the big ones.

The closing of the Central Bank & Trust Co., in Asheville, N. C., has disclosed the fact that millions of dollars of tax money had been turned over to the bank in an effort to prevent loss to the big depositors when it was known that the bank faced a failure. The corruption uncovered is

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## Evict Strikers From Danville Homes on X-mas

DANVILLE, Va.—The 4,000 textile strikers of the Dan River Mills continue their fight against a 10 percent wage-cut and the stretch-out, while winter snows are piling up and Christmas threatens evictions for 47 strike families.

Under the protection of the steel bayonets of the militia and the hundreds of deputies over 1,000 workers have been escorted into the mills, according to the pickets' count, while the A. F. of L. misleaders continue to council the workers to stand idly by and see their jobs taken away from them. Matilda Lindsey, who helped negotiate one of the sell-out agreements at Elizabethton last year, has joined the cohort of A. F. of L. misleaders at Danville.

One of the latest acts of treachery on the part of the labor fakers was their offer to Magistrate Fitts, who has sentenced strikers to jail, to guard his house if the militia is removed. With two feet of snow on the ground, Santa Claus, sent by the mill owners, plans to evict 47 strike families. Many of the workers threatened with eviction declare that they will fight militantly against being thrown out of their houses.

Two more strikers were sentenced to 30 days in jail and fined \$50 a piece last week for the mass picketing demonstration two weeks ago. Bufford Nash, who was the right hand man of the bosses in the "industrial democracy" and is president of the union local had himself and others re-elected by the strike committee. Many of the strikers are thinking of William Murdoch, secretary of the National Textile Workers Union, who is in the Danville jail, and of the militant policies he advocates and for which he is imprisoned.

## To Speak on Soviet Farms, In Chatta.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Abe Epstein, organizer of the I. C. O. R., will speak in Chattanooga, at the International Workers' Order Hall, 517 West 9th Street, on January 5, at 8:30 p.m. Comrade Epstein has just returned from a trip in the Soviet Union, where he has visited many of the Jewish farm collective colonies. The ICOR is the American society to aid in the settlement of Russian Jews on Soviet farms.

Recently the ICOR showed the Soviet film, Cain and Artem, in Chattanooga to an audience of over 200 people.

## Closing Banks Take Workers Xmas Savings

(Continued from Front Page)  
only equal to the state grant at Nashville, Tenn., where the Horton machine turned over close to \$10,000,000 of state funds to Caldwell & Co. preceding its crash. The failure of Caldwell & Co., leading investment bankers in the South, has dragged with it many smaller banks already.

The City National Bank, second largest bank in Miami, Fla., was among those closed down.

The only way for the worker and farmer depositors to protect their savings is to form committees of action and by mass demonstration demand that their deposits, and not those of big business, be returned.

### NOT THE WAY OUT

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Lyman Summers, an unemployed worker, tried to commit suicide by taking poison, when he was unable to find a job. He was supposed to be married the next day.

## 5,000 In B'ham Jobless March

(Continued from Front Page)  
to divide the workers and said that instead both white and Negro workers need to struggle together against the bosses for better conditions and for unemployment insurance. "Instead of going somewhere else to fight other workers," he said "we have got to fight right here against the bosses."

There were numerous shouts of approval from the workers. Both white and Negro workers shouted "We got to fight together, we got to fight for what we want." "That's right!"

### Continue Protest March

While this was going on the boss called the cops and beat it out the back door. The workers, however, went right after him, caught him and impressed on him what they thought of him, and then marched back to the job.

The police came, mostly plain-clothesmen, very much scared themselves and tried to soft-soap the men by telling them that everyone would get an "even break." The job was finally closed down, with no one hired and the workers were told that it would open again soon, but not told when for fear of another demonstration.

The wages on the last viaduct job were 15 and 20 cents an hour, and the workers who came here knew what to expect and were enraged but forced to apply for the job to keep from starving. In this mass demonstration workers of Birmingham have shown conclusively that no 15-cent meal ticket sops, or Community Chest piffle will fool them to believe their empty stomachs are full. Most important, these workers showed the bosses that no difference in the color of the skin was going to keep them from organizing together and fighting.

## Police Round Up Houston Sailors

By a Worker Correspondent  
Houston, Texas.

The Houston police invaded the sanctum sanctorum of the Seamen's Church Institute and lined the sailors up against the wall and made them give their name and date of registry.

It is necessary for a sailor to hang around this joint to be on hand to get a job. Yet, Taylor, who holds his job thru the fact that he is a Christian and a believer in the teachings of a supposed-to-be just and merciful God, sits in his office and allows these things to be done by the cossacks.

Sailors, there is a Marine Workers Industrial Union Hall at 7511 Ave. O, in Houston. Visit this hall and find out just how you can help abolish this and many other persecutions that the police inflict on seamen and every other kind of worker.  
— A Seaman.

### TINSEL TO EAT

SALISBURY, N. C.—The American Legion is going to erect a Christmas tree for the unemployed. Tinsel, balls, snow and all. Certainly the sight of it should make the ungrateful unemployed forget their hunger and join in praise of a Santa Claus that says: "To him that hath shall be given more."

### A "CRIMINAL"

CHICAGO, Ill.—An unemployed worker from Gary, Ind., tried to steal a ten cent doll in a department store for his little children. The "criminal" was caught, arrested and brought before the judge on a charge of larceny, and after much pleading, was run out of Chicago.

## World Is Coming To End— Don't Fight, Says Church

By a Worker Correspondent  
Birmingham, Ala.

The bosses have solved the unemployment problem and the workers don't have to worry any more about their rotten conditions. In many Negro churches, and also white ones, the ministers are telling the workers the world is going to end in a few years and so why worry about conditions because we have only a short time to live anyway.

This is but a scheme and a trick to keep the workers from organizing for better conditions. To hell with these fakers, fellow-workers, fight for real unemployment relief.

## Must Rush Funds to Keep up "S.W."

(Continued from Front Page)

cause his jailors are afraid to let him read it. Will you, fellow workers, deprive our movement of the SOUTHERN WORKER? Will you permit it to stop publication?

Last week we received only \$7.05 in donations, even less than the week before. If at least \$100 is not collected before the next issue comes out it won't come out.

Collect every cent you can get from your friends and fellow-workers, Fill the collection lists. Donate as much as you can.

**WE MUST KEEP THE SOUTHERN WORKER GO-ING!**

**Rush all funds to: Southern Worker, Box 1813, Birmingham, Ala.**

Donations:	
Total Previous Week	\$32.58
K. J. Butchis, Spokane Wash.	\$1.50
Collection List No. 122, from 6 mill workers, Charlotte, N. C.	\$2.00
Collection List No. 154, from workers in Milwaukee, Wis.	\$3.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39.63</b>

SOFIA.—Police with fixed bayonets, charged helpless young Communists in the courtroom here where they were on trial for carrying on activity against the boss government. The militant prisoners told the truth about the murderous boss class of Bulgaria and he judge ordered the attack.

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Three garbage collection workers were fired by the city when they presented the demands of the garbage collectors for higher wages and shorter hours of work. The workers were elected as a grievance committee. The city commissioner has given the public works director full authority to break the threatened strike by any means.

## A Challenge — Who Answers?

Galveston, Tex.

The SOUTHERN WORKER is over the top here in Galveston. I have not a copy left on file of the Dec. 13th issue. I sent the port delegate to Houston yesterday for their bundle and was sorry to see that the S. W. was in the discard in that branch of the Marine Workers' Industrial Union. Come on, you Houston bunch, get busy and wake up.

I challenge any port in the South to work up the street sales of our paper. We have the colored and white workers coming to the hall getting their papers. Enclosed find \$1 for last bundle. Send 150 next issue. I will be satisfied when there is 500 SOUTHERN WORKERS on the streets.

Tell the comrade in Greenville, S. C., that we are not only getting the paper on the map, but we are going to have them in every port in the world.

—Al W. McBride, Local Secty.

## Pulls Off Doors To Force Tenant Out

By a Worker Correspondent  
Charlotte, N. C.

I will write you all a few lines to tell you what happened here last week. The rent man did not tell the renter to get out by words, but he let her know what he meant by doing what he did.

He took the door off and took the windows out, but the renter put bagging sack over the door and over the window. When the landlord came he found her still there with the two bags, one over the door and the other over the window.

We all might die, but that rent must come, sick or well.

—A Negro Worker.

## Never Made More Than \$6 a Week for 38 Years

Charlotte, N. C.

I will try to tell you about the way we colored people are treated. We are treated like dogs. I can't tell you all about it.

The white man will kill and he beats up the Negro worker. And the Negroes can't help it for they have no way to help themselves.

I am thirty-eight years old and have never made over six dollars a week. I do housework for the white folks, and I am tired of working for nothing.

When the law comes they come knocking, belling, killing and tearing down doors.

When the house rent is due the rent man comes and we must pay, but no work, no money and sick or well, we must move at once or the law will come and set us on the street.  
—A Negro Working Woman.

## LYNCH LAW AT WORK

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—A lynch mob from Maryville, Mo., attempted to drag Raymond Gunn from prison here and lynch him, but were unsuccessful due to presence of troops. Gunn is charged with killing a white school teacher.

\* \* \*

BLANCHARD, Okla. — Following the discovery of the body of a white woman near a cave here, from 200 to 300 Negro families were forced to leave this region by the lynch terror, leaving all their property and crops, which were taken over by the white landlords without any compensation.

\* \* \*

ROCHESTER, Minn. — The boss class is attempting to bar Negro, Indian, Mongolian, Chinese, and Japanese workers from resident in certain parts of the city and enforce strict segregation.

\* \* \*

ALBANY, Ga.—Eddie Marsh, 18-year-old Negro farm worker, was sentenced to death for killing his landlord, a pecan grower, in a quarrel.

\* \* \*

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Three Negro boys, aged 15, 16, and 17, were sentenced to serve 15 years in the penitentiary for wounding a 15-year-old white boy scout in a scuffle. The white boy scout had a rifle and one of the Negro boys a revolver. Solicitor Carpenter, of Gastonia fame, used all his arguments of "white superiority" and "patriotism."

## Terrible Conditions On Old Sea Tub

By a Worker Correspondent  
Norfolk, Va.

That wreck of a sardine can, S. S. Elda, is a terrible ship. Talking about forecastles, if there as many men on this tub as there are bed bugs, we would have 20 watches on deck, for there are so many bugs that they throw you out of your bunk. As to the food, it is rotten. They give you garbage three times a day. The cook boils his socks in the coffee to make it strong. The bread is full of cockroaches, for the cook uses them for raisins. I had better close before I say too much.

—A Sailor.

### LAY-OFF, WAGES DOWN

Texas Wire and Nail Co., here in Galveston is working three days a week, 8 hours a day. Most of the work is done by residents of Galveston. Wages are 30 cents an hour. Many local stool pigeons are on the job and are always running to their masters to report if there is any outsider on the job. Fifty men working now. Before this crisis was on, this plant hired 100 men.

**KEEP SOUTHERN WORKER GO-ING! RUSH IN FUNDS!**

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# FROM THE MILLS, MINES AND THE FARMS

## STARVING EX-SOLDIER FOR UNITED FIGHT

By a Worker Correspondent  
Atlanta, Ga.

Am unemployed for 8 months. Was a soldier in the world war where I fought for Wilson's equality and democracy for Negroes. Because of the wounds I received in battle, I cannot get a job. They want younger fellows who they can work like the devil for nothing at all.

The City here opened up a Community Kitchen dump. Everyday, hundreds of unemployed, starving Negroes and whites, go there with their two cents and get a can of slop. But the Negroes, because of the discrimination there, are not going any longer. They would rather starve than be insulted as they are down there.

When a Negro does get past the insulting red tape and question cards he has got to fill out, then he finds that he must have two cents and a tin can in order to get a cupful of stinking mixed vegetables and a hunk of stale bread. The whites get their choice of soup or milk and even some of them have coal delivered to their homes.

The Negroes are not putting up with these miserable conditions and are organizing into the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, to fight discrimination of all kinds, off the job and on the job.

—Unemployed Negro Ex-Soldier.

## Morgan Line Gives Sailors Slop to Eat

By a Worker Correspondent  
S. S. El Occidente,  
Morgan Line.

After being on the beach for a long time, I was compelled to take a Morgan Line Ship, but one meal was all I lasted.

The Southern Pacific S. S. Olo, is so cheap that they put no sugar or milk on the table. The crew might use too much. The rest of the food is not fit for pigs, and on top of this the sailors are compelled to shift ship at 8 p.m. Saturday evening for which they get no overtime or no back time. Delegate 624.

## Leader of B'ham Jobless March Describes Action

By a Worker Correspondent  
Birmingham, Ala.

On Monday morning, December 16, when the overhead bridge from 20th street to 18th street was to be started, about 5,000 Negro and white workers gathered to be hired.

But the boss tried to force them to work for little by picking out all the old workers and putting them on for work. I started to walk among the crowd, telling them to turn it into a mass meeting.

The workers agreed to do as I told them and agreed that the bosses did not care a bit more for the white than he did for the Negro workers, but he used both races to keep one another down so that he can get more profits.

The workers began to gather close around me and the boss.

The boss began to get on his toes.

The enraged white and Negro workers began to chase the boss around the block till he escaped into the Morris Hotel, where I spoke to the workers for five minutes.

I told them that the Communist Party is the only party that leads the workers into struggle against the rotten conditions and fights for Unemployment Insurance.

That was a jim-crow place, the hotel where the boss ran into and where he thought he could get away from the workers, but we went right on after him. The white people in the hotel all stood to one side. The boss went out the back door, but the workers ran on behind him. They ran him away from the place where they were to work.

—Young Communist League Member.

## Tenant Farmer 60 Years, Broke

By a Worker Correspondent  
Breckinridge, Texas.

The following is from a tenant farmer, who has raised thousands of bales of cotton and now finds himself, between 60 and 70 years old, broke, with 5 dependents.

Dear B:—

Have been here picking cotton all fall. Just made my expenses. The last three years have broke me entirely. There are five of us, all able to work and we want a place where we can make a share crop and "get by." We will do any kind of work.

A small strip of country here made a fine feed crop and about a quarter bale of cotton per acre. There were so many hands, the cotton did not last long. We got 50 cents for pulling bolls and 75 cents for picking. How is the movement coming on?

—A Tenant Farmer.

## MORE UNEMPLOYMENT

According to the United States Department of Labor unemployment in Mississippi for November was greater than in October.

## MAKE SAILORS DO DOCK WORK

By a Worker Correspondent  
Galveston, Texas.

The bosses' tool, first officer Ellis of the S. S. West Moreland, is a good slave driver for the bosses. He had the crew of this ship handling a part of a main propeller shaft weighing about two and a half tons. He had the crew off deck, consisting of 5 AB's and no Ordinaries, as the owners, the Lykes Bros., ships carry work-a-ways, and while in port the work-a-ways stay ashore with the rest of the unemployed workers.

This crew of seamen were forced to handle the shaft on the dock, which is the work of the dock-workers. Not satisfied with these workers slaving for \$50 a month, \$12.50 less than any other company pays out of this port, they make them do work that many unemployed longshoremen are begging to do.

Ellis is not only a slave-driver and a bully but is a coward of the rank-kind. No sheaf-knife is supposed to be worn with a point. Ellis has a knife in his scabbard that is the largest of all knives worn by seamen. It looks like a machete, with which the Cubans cut sugar cane, and has a point. How long are the seamen going to stand for these kind of officers on American ships? Are you seamen going to be scared by a knife fight? Fight these conditions. Join the Marine Workers' Industrial Union.

—Lykes Bros. Galley Slave.

## Worker Burnt After Helper Is Laid Off

By a Worker Correspondent  
Atlanta, Ga.

I was working at a dairy and doing two men's work. Today, the boss told me he to lay me off. Just about 30 minutes after I was laid off, the fellow I was helping, a white worker, caught fire and was badly burned. If I had not been cut off this not have happened. The machine I worked at was a new machine to increase the speed-up.

—Young Negro Worker

## Mate Drowns Dock Worker By Speed

By a Worker Correspondent  
New Orleans, La.

In the ancient historical city of New Orleans, the spirit of the old-time brutality still lives along the waterfront, personified in the mates, captains and the army of master-class watchdogs.

On the S. S. Ostar, a few Negro workers had been hired to load the ship at \$1.75 a day under the command of the mate, who used the most awful phraseology to the workers, mistreating them not only with insults but menacing them with a stick which he whirled indiscriminately right and left, increasing the rush. Under such pressure one of the longshoremen fell over the side and drowned. In the fever of the speed-up nobody cared for the victim who met his death in the waters of the Mississippi.

If I were to give my opinion, the blame is upon the workers, whose passive attitude and servitude permit such things to happen, instead of fighting to the last ditch.

—Negro Longshoreman.

## DIE STARVING AND BOSS WILL CALL YOU HERO

By a Worker Correspondent  
Greenville, S. C.

Well, for the love of me, the U. S. Government and its lackeys is going to put out \$116,000,000 for "unemployed relief." In such a way, that very few workers will receive little or no benefit from it. By the time it is run thru all the machines it will be frazzled up so bad, it will do no one any good, I mean working men and women and also little children, who I know, are starving and freezing.

## How Can We Wait??

I was bummed the other day by a young lad for a dime to get something to eat saying he had not had anything to eat for two days. How in thunder can we wait until next year for something to eat?

I see and hear no contented workers. All are talking of fighting and I mean we know what we are going to fight. And for a settled fact, it is not going to be long off. The Southern man will take a lot of dragging around, but look out when we get hungry. It is much better to die fighting than to starve to death. We will be called a hero by the capitalist class if we starve to death. But if we die fighting we will be called a red.

## Fight for Insurance!

Business is not going to get any better. Even the mill in Lancaster, England are going to introduce the stretch-out system the first of 1931, which means more thousands out of work. Here and in England there is an overproduction of cloth and cotton on hand and workers by hundreds walking the streets and we have in stores an overproduction of something to eat and yet thousands starve.

Every important industrial nation except the United States, keeps record of unemployment and provides insurance against unemployment. Fight for insurance at the expense of the government! Don't starve! Away with such a rotten system as we have!

Yes, boy, the reds is in Greenville S. C. yet and doing well.

—Textile Worker.

## MY LIFE

By a Negro Working Woman

### THE STORY THUS FAR:

The Negro working woman who writes this story was raised on the farm. Her father becomes a peon when his landlord pays a fine for him. Her first husband is shot in cold blood by the landlord. Her second husband tries to run away from his farm but it caught by the sheriff and brought back by force. At present she is working for a rich woman, who doesn't want to pay her wages. Now continue reading:

I left this place and went to work for another lady for \$4.50 a week. At first she permitted my little boy to come up and have his meals every day. But one day, while he was sitting on the porch eating, she came into the kitchen and asked me what I gave him for his lunch. After I told her she said I would have to feed him out of my own wages, which were only \$4.50 a week. "I don't like little niggers around my place, anyway," she said.

After cooking that night's meal I asked her for what she owed me and told her I was quitting. She begged me to stay because she like my work

and I told her that if she did not like little "niggers" around I knew she could not stand a "nigger" large as I was. And I quit.

I got another job in this town for a few months and then I went to Atlanta. My boy was then nine years old. I worked in several places making just enough to keep from starving and trying to keep my boy in school. My boy was giving me lots of worry at this time for he would leave early in the morning and not come back until late at night. I could not work in peace, and part of the time I did not have a job, and he in the streets all day, many times hungry, for I could not give him food always. I was afraid he would begin to steal, for he was just old enough to learn how.

I took the chance to get a job a friend of mine was leaving in Decatur, Ga., as a cook. I began work on May 11, 1917, and the next day the big fire started in Atlanta. The lady had boarders and paid me \$3.50 a week and fed the boy, too. That summer I sent my boy to stay with my sisters in the country.

(To be continued next week.)

## Hoover Gives Out 5 Jobs — We're Fired

By a Worker Correspondent  
Birmingham, Ala.

Pets get jobs while workers in Birmingham starve. I was reading in the Pathfinder, a journal published in Washington every week, that President Hoover has put four new watchdogs on their posts. Charles E. Mitchell, of West Virginia, as minister to Liberia; W. D. Henderson, of Kansas City, as assistant attorney-general; William Heuston, of Gary, Indiana, as assistant solicitor of the post-office department and Jefferson Cager recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia, and another member of the Negro race is also expected to be made registrar of the treasury.

But that placement of these five Negro men does not help the 400 Negro workers who were put out of work on the fourth of the month by the closing down of the Sloss-Sheffield Sheet and Iron Company blast furnace here. We white and Negro workers must join the Trade Union

## Aged Jobless Worker Gives Last Pennies For Our Paper

By a Worker Correspondent  
Sturgis, Mich.

I have been going to write to the editor of the SOUTHERN WORKER for some time, but I just got at it. The way I got in touch with the SOUTHERN WORKER is I met a fellow travelling through and he gave me a copy.

I have been a socialist for 25 years. I am an old cement plant worker. I worked 15 years in the cement plant, 12 hours, a slave-driving system, until 7 years ago. I lost my right eye when a piece of steel struck me in the eye. Since then I have not been able to the work any more.

They paid me the sum of \$14 a week for 100 weeks. I have lived that up long ago. I have a large family. I have 4 boys and 3 girls and one girl dead. I have two big boys, they did work in the factory but they have not been working for two years and they say I am too old and bunged

up. I will be 49 on Dec. 13.

What are working are working at 15 and 18 cents an hour, and only a few out of the population of 8,000 Sturgis has 13 large factories, 3 big furniture factories, each one employing 300 to 400 hands. One has shut clear down and the other two employ about 30 hands apiece. The other shops are the same way. There isn't a union organization in any of these shops.

I see by the Detroit papers they are going to get a whipping block and whip us unemployed and a new penitentiary, a big one, for us unemployed. Unemployment is awful bad here, no work at all.

I have been distributing my papers from one to another who read them and pass them on. I am sorry I can't help much, but I will a little. I would miss the paper very much.

—Robert A. Brown.

Unity League and fight for unemployment insurance.

—A Worker.

FIGHT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE!



# The Southern Worker

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## The Birmingham Demonstration

Five thousand Negro and white workers in Birmingham last week, forgetting all the boss talk about race prejudice in their common struggle against starvation, turned a job line into one of the most militant workers' demonstrations ever seen in the coal and steel city. The viaduct at 18th Street was supposed to be one of the heralded aids to unemployment. Instead, the white and colored workers raised their voice in no uncertain terms against this fake relief, which put a few men to work at cut wages and lowers the wage scale of all labor.

The workers knew that, divided on the color line, they could do nothing. They knew that if they did not want to be broken up, if they were to carry on any kind of a fight, white and colored workers would have to stand shoulder to shoulder. Their demonstration showed that if workers do not permit themselves to be divided because of race, the bosses and their police henchmen do not dare to attack.

Due to the alertness and militancy of a young Negro worker, member of the Young Communist League, the discontent and rage of the workers was organized into a mass protest against unemployment, into a mass meeting in the lobby of a jim-crow hotel for unemployment insurance. This young Negro worker obtained a promise from the white workers that they would support him, and they did support their young Negro leader. Against starvation, against the 15-cent meal ticket insult and Community Chest-piffle of the bosses who have laid off worker and cut wages, these 5,000 united workers raised the cry of battle.

The workers, however, could have brought their demonstration to a still more powerful conclusion. They had vented their rage on the boss who picked the "good men" from the crowd, declared themselves for united organization and struggle, and when it was over departed, each his own way. The Trade Union Unity League should have been on the job. The comrades should have led this mass protest march to the steps of the City Hall, breaking thru the police terror against militant workers, and presented the demands of the unemployed for immediate relief and for unemployment insurance right at the seat of the U. S. Steel-controlled city government. That would have brought the demonstration to the attention of all the workers of Birmingham, have set on foot a powerful mass movement for real relief that no Tennessee Coal and Iron police lackeys could break.

The demonstration has opened the way in Birmingham for an open mass campaign of the unemployed. It has shown, that given leadership, the white and Negro workers will fight together for their relief demands. We must look forward to a powerful Unemployed Council of the Trade Union Unity League in Birmingham, leading even bigger demonstrations and marches and rousing the workers to struggle.

## The Bank Failures

The banks are closing their doors. Just one week before Christmas, capitalism, dressed as Santa Claus, walked in over 70 banks and took what little savings workers and farmers may have put away out of their year of toil for a little extra food and pleasure on the holidays.

Until last week the crisis had only affected small banks in the farm country, especially in the cotton and tobacco regions of the South. These small bank failures are spreading like wild fire, fed by the farm crisis. Farmers and farm tenants who had pledged their whole life away in loans from banks and merchants, find that now even their small farms and their belongings are being taken away from them. The merchants and bankers are saving their profits at the expense of the already impoverished farm population. In the Delta and in the cotton lands of Arkansas, where the country is dominated by a handful of white planters, the bank failures mean more starvation and misery for thousands of Negro and white farm families.

But now, larger banks, affected by the industrial crisis, are beginning to close their doors. The Bank of the United States in New York City was the first big bank to succumb, dragging with it the savings of thousands of New York workers, many of whom are now unemployed. The Bankers Trust Co., in Philadelphia, and the City National Bank in Miami, the second largest in the summer resort of the millionaires, followed. Within the next few weeks, there will be a blaze of bank failures throughout the country.

The financial tsars of American capitalism, looking out for their own profits, are unable to stem this growing bank panic even with their Federal reserve, which they boast so much about. These failure, to be followed by even more unemployment and wage-slashing, are fast bringing this crisis to the worst in American history.

The worker-depositors of the Bank of the United States in New York City, are pointing the way to other worker-depositors and farm depositors thruout the country. Knowing that the State Banking Department will take the workers' last pennies to return deposits to big business, these worker-depositors are holding big mass meetings, electing committees of action, and working out plans to fight this boss robbery. This example must be followed by the workers and farmers in the South, who by this struggle, cannot only get their savings back, but start a mass struggle for relief and against capitalism.

### X-MAS CHEER

NEW ORLEANS, La.—"My mama is poor and I wanted some toys for Christmas," declared Joseph Preston, 6-year-old Negro boy, who broke thru a store window to take a toy wagon. He was arrested.

### BOSS CHARITY

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The kind-hearted bosses of this city presented a pair of old shoes to an old unemployed worker so he could peddle candy to keep himself and his 5-year old girl alive.

## Will Elizabethton Fighters Accept New Stretch-Out?

Elizabethton, Tenn.

The Glanzstoff Rayon plant has announced that it will open its new unit here on Jan. 1, and that the same number of men and women that are working in the one plant now will work both units with a wage increase

of about \$2 a week. That will mean an unbearable stretchout.

Will the rayon workers of Glanzstoff, who have walked out in five militant strikes during the last three years, stand for it? Will they stand passively by allowing themselves to be sweated to the bone by these new skeleton making schemes of the Glanzstoff Rayon Corporation?

### No Betrayal This Time

Already there is a murmur of protest. The fighting spirit of the workers is rising again. One thought stands uppermost in the minds of most of the workers in Glanzstoff. If they go out on strike, will they be betrayed again like they were by the A. F. of L. union outfit of fakers? Will the days of militant struggle be in vain because some McGrady or Kelly lined up with the bosses behind their backs and sold them out?

The answer to that question depends on the workers themselves. It is up to them to choose their own true leaders. There is a force not to be corrupted by the rayon bosses or intimidated by troops or sheriffs or deputies — the NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION.

### Company Promises

And also remember the lessons of the last five strikes and remember them well, so that we will not have to learn them all over again at our own expense.

Remember—before Bemberg-Glanzstoff came down here they promised \$25 a week for the girls and when the plant started up in 1927 the girls were started at \$8.95 a week and those who had training at \$10.80 a week. The men were placed on 12-hour shifts for 22 cents an hour. That was the first promise.

Then there was the first unorganized strike in 1927, with the girls demanding an increase in wages. The company promises got the crew back with no gains. Another promise that

Then, the second unorganized strike on March 1, 1928, demanding the 8-hour day. Again the company promised—promised the 8-hour day in six months and when the 6 months were up the rayon bosses asked for 30 days. And when the 30 days were up the company said there was a "slump" (when they were making millions in profit.) Another promise.

### Coming of Traitors

And then again on March 14, 1929, the men struck for the 8-hour day. This time Paul Aymon of the Tennessee A. F. of L. was notified and he started organizing for the United Textile Workers. On March 21, the Company, Paul Aymon, Hoffman and Sheriff Moreland made an agreement at a Johnson City Hotel giving the union the right to organize providing it was done outside the mill! Under cover of this agreement the strikers were told to go back to work. By use of stools the company found out who was in the union and started firing union men and women. On April 14, Glanzstoff fired 27 union members. On April 15, a strike vote was taken and the crew pulled from Glanzstoff.

Now there were other kinds of promises the strikers had to deal with.



A Mass Picket Line During the 1929 Strike

This time from men who said they were leaders. The first sign of A. F. of L. treachery occurred when Amon and Hoffman signed the first agreement in Johnson City, sending the workers back without any demands won. The second treacher-

ous step was when Hoffman and Aymon told the strikers at the time the April 15 strike was pulled not to call out the workers at Bemberg. The strikers knew better and called out the Bemberg workers. About 2,500 strikers formed mass picket lines. Hoffman, Kelly, Aymon and Matilda Lindsey, a woman betrayer, told the pickets to carry Bibles and pray for the scabs on the roads. But the company knew better and called in force, several companies of the militia to reinforce the deputies. Praying against steel bayonets, said Kelly.

### The Sell-Out

The Union organized relief promising \$4 to \$10 a week according to size of family, and then after two weeks relief was cut to \$3 a week and then to \$2. Over \$110,000 was raised thruout the country for the strikers, but after the U. T. W. fakers had spent \$40,000 they announced no more relief. In addition they had collected \$10,000 from the Elizabethton strikers in dues and initiations. After 7 weeks of strike Kelly announced no more relief. That was Kelly preparing the way for the sellout. Then came his crony, Anne Weinstock, Department of Labor conciliator, drew up an agreement with the company, which was approved by Kelley on June 20. In this agreement there was a clause saying that the company would re-hire only those who were "desirable." Then came E. T. Willson, from Passaic, as personal director for the company, to supervise the blacklisting. Over 2,000 were black-listed. The workers never saw that agreement. It was a deliberate sellout, put across while the workers were militantly resisting injunctions.

### A Final Lesson

Then in October, with everything just as bad as it was before and worse despite the promises of the company and Kelly and McGrady, the workers wanted another strike. Gorman came, got the County Court House for his dirty work, and there persuaded the 2,500 workers who attended to go back to work until the spring of 1930.

Spring, 1930—another strike with Paul Fuller of the U. T. W. in there this time. Openly they betrayed the strike by declaring that only members of the union who had been in good standing for the last 12 months could get relief. The unorganized rayon workers were left out of the picture.

### A Strike to Victory

There were five strikes. In the first two the workers learned that the promises of the company aren't worth anything unless there is a union to enforce them. In the last three the workers learned that the A. F. of L. traitors were not the ones to force the bosses to keep promises made to the striking workers. In the last two especially they learned that the A. F. of L. crowd belonged to Glanzstoff.

Now there is the National Textile Workers Union. The bosses hate it for they know it will never betray the workers. Rayon workers of Elizabethton, remember the lessons of the last five strikes well, don't make any more needless sacrifices! Let your next strike be a strike to victory under the leadership of the N. T. W. U.!

## The Reds Say--

By JIM ALLEN

The State of Alabama is making an important change. Afraid that they might be accused of being truthful, Gov.-elect Miller and his henchmen, change the old State motto: "Here we Rest," to "We Dare Maintain Our Rights." The old motto is much more to the point with tens of thousands of workers "resting" on empty stomachs, waiting for jobs that ain't. The new motto, however, has the right boss twist. It declares—so that every worker can understand it—that the bosses of Alabama will "dare" maintain their "right" to continue laying off thousands of more workers, cut wages, lengthen hours, keep the chain gangs growing with unemployed, instill race prejudice. But we, the workers, will also maintain our right to organize and fight.

\* \* \*

The future governor of Alabama seems to be "progressive." The New York bosses hit upon the bright idea of posting unemployed workers on the corners selling apples, to give the impression that they are aiding unemployment and incidentally let themselves be seen munching an "unemployed" apple as a token of their friendship to labor. But Miller won't allow Walker to walk off with all the fruit. He got a few crates himself, also and gives an apple to any misled worker who comes to him for a job in return for his vote.

\* \* \*

If apples, why not oranges? So the orange growers of Louisiana, to get rid of their surplus crop, have induced the charitable mayor and bosses of New Orleans, to start an orange selling campaign. Mayor Walmsey is confident that he will be able to solve unemployment with orange juice, so he has put 100 unemployed workers to work selling oranges for the growers. Watch the price of oranges go up! The planters are now selling them for \$2.70 a box, but rest assured, as soon as the sales begin to grow, just like with the apples in New York, the bosses will see to it that they get more profit out of the misery of the unemployed.

\* \* \*

The City of Birmingham thinks it below its dignity to have soup kitchens. So do we—for the unemployed—and that is why we are fighting for unemployment insurance, for work or wages. But the city of Chicago has no such sentimental qualms. It has just opened a steam-heated home with 22 kennels having upper and lower berths for stray DOGS during the cold weather. Why the flop houses aren't even steam heated, let alone having separate rooms for every two workers. But Holy Mackerel, the poor stray dogs must be saved!

\* \* \*

And Congress passed Hoover's \$116,000,000 "unemployment relief bill." Kind-hearted, eh? About one worker out of every 100,000 will see anything of that money. One billion, one hundred million dollars, is a real sum, tho. That ain't coming to us, no, sir! That amount, says Admiral William V. Pratt, will be spent for building new battleships, destroyers and airplanes. The American bosses will spend that preparing for the big war. Hyde, the bankers' farm secretary, says \$25,000,000 is more than enough for the millions of farm population starving because of the crisis and the drought. There it is, fellow-workers, bosses' relief in cold figures. There isn't going to be any relief, unless we ourselves fight to