

SOUTHERN WORKER

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Birmingham Steel Workers Lining Up For Strikes To Defeat Wage Cuts

HARLAN MURDERERS KIDNAP, BEAT, SHOOT AT ORGANIZERS

T. MYERSCOUGH
AND JIM GRACE
TAKEN FOR RIDE

Spies and thugs of the Kentucky coal operators made another unsuccessful attempt to stop the work of organizing the miners of the South when they took Tom Meyerscough and Jim Grace, organizers of the National Miners' Union for "a night ride" last Friday, and savagely beat Grace and assaulted and fired a large number of shots at Meyerscough.

The two organizers were in the Hazard field preparing for a section conference to develop organizational work which would serve these underpaid and starving miners in their coming struggles for the right to live.

Operators' Spies Busy

Informed of the organizers' presence there, undoubtedly by spies of the operators who refuse to pay decent wages to miners but continue to spend large sums of money on spies, guns and munitions, as well as special gun-thugs to use them, the finding of the two organizers was not a hard job.

Arrested without warrant in Neon, Kentucky, on Friday night, Meyerscough and Grace were taken to Jenkins, Ky., and jailed, although the jail in Neon was only a stone's throw from where the arrests were made.

Inform Blair's Gun-Men

At Jenkins the "law" that arrested them called up Sheriff Blair in Harlan to inform him of the capture so his murder gang could come and take them "riding." Overhearing the phone conversation the organizers learned they would be held in jail until 1 o'clock in the morning when Blair's gang would call for them.

At that hour they were rustled out of Jenkins' jail, surrounded by enough police, sheriffs and gunmen to resemble a mass meeting. "Of course we were naive enough," said one of the organizers, "to believe they were taking us to the county jail, but we soon learned otherwise."

Taken to Virginia Line

Instead of the Harlan jail they were taken to the Virginia state line, put out of the car, denied all their personal property by the thieving thugs, and beaten up and shot at by the Harlan gun-men.

Meyerscough was first attacked and in the scuffle, managed to get near the edge of a cliff over which he sprang, taking a chance on lighting without many broken bones. Badly bruised and suffering from shock as a result of the fall Meyerscough was able to swing from a tree onto a ledge that had a rock covering, resembling a cave. His fall was accompanied by a fusillade of bullets from

How the "Black List" Works In Kentucky Coal Regions

(By Our Special Correspondent)

HARLAN, Ky.—In their drive to keep the workers of this part of the country in a condition of semi-slavery the coal operators have a well-functioning "black list." This region of company scrip, mass starvation while men are supposed to be employed, this land of the 12 to 14 hour day under the terror of thugs, also boasts a bosses organization called "Harlan County Coal Operators' Association," which directs the "black list."

There has come into my possession a typical letter of this gang to one of the members of the bosses association which shows how they work. The letter is from the office of E. R. Clayton, secretary of the association at Harlan and is addressed to the plant manager of the Black Star Coal Company. The complete letter is as follows:

August 22nd, 1931
"Mr. C. B. Burchfield, Plant Mgr.
Black Star Coal Co.
Alva, Ky.

Dear Mr. Burchfield:

Referring to yours of the 21st—
So far as we know

Eugene Austin
Scott Anderson
Harmon Cavin
David Eads
Ogden Miller
Sam Wells and
Leonard Wilder

have not been mixed up in the recent labor troubles. However, for your information, the Creech Coal Company has never reported to us the names of the men they have refused to re-employ and any man coming from that section should be put in the doubtful class.

We have several James Stewarts

the gunmen, but they failed to hit him. Then they began rolling down big rocks, hoping that in case their bullets had not taken effect they would be able to kill the organizer in another way.

They then turned upon Grace and fiercely beat him. That either of the organizers are alive is regarded as a mystery. Both were badly battered and when they reached the homes of friends in widely separated places they were forced to rest and recuperate from their experience before they could move around much.

Both men declare that they are anxious to get back on the job of organizing the National Miners Union and that they are more determined than ever to aid in preparing for resistance to the thug rule and to develop the counter-offensive against the bosses on the basis of economic demands.

and it is difficult for us to identify this particular one, some of them are okey, while others have union tendencies.

"Everett Cothorn was discharged at High Splint for his activities; Sol Jackson is an old member of the UM WofA; Claude Powell was discharged at Southern Harlan for his activities. We have an A. Rickett and an Arthur Rickett; am inlined to believe they are the same, and A. Rickett joined the Union at Comet mine in May 1927.

For your confidential information, a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Miners Union is scheduled to be held around Blackmont some place Monday morning about 10 o'clock.

"Yours very truly,
GEO. S. WARD, Asst. Secty.

The "black list" system is only one of the many things against which the miners in Kentucky and Tennessee are fighting.

Through the form of organization now in operation in the mine fields the spies and thugs are having a more difficult time listing men for victimization at the hands of such a gang of dirty blackguards as the Harlan County Coal Operators' Association. In spite of the "confidential information" about the executive committee of the N. M. U. no such meeting was held at the time and place mentioned.

Such meetings are certainly being held in every section of the Kentucky and Tennessee coal regions, but the bosses can't find out anything about them beforehand and but very little afterwards. Because the union is rapidly growing they try to send in their spies but a number of them have been caught and exposed, so they will do no more damage as far as spying on the miners is concerned.

Before long the whole scabby gang will be cleaned out of these parts.

ALUMINUM TRUST CUTS WAGES

Andrew W. Mellon, secretary of the treasury in Hoover's cabinet, and one of the richest men in the world, lies to the workers that he is opposed to wage cuts. His aluminum trust cut wages ten per cent on October 1st. No worker should ever believe any of the members of the government. They are all professional liars and hypocrites, like Mellon and Hoover. The job of the government is to smash workers' and farmers' standards of life, so the big capitalists can get richer than ever.

Southern Steel Workers Following the Lead of Pittsburgh Conference

BIRMINGHAM—Workers in the steel industry in Birmingham, which the bosses brag about as "The Pittsburgh of the South" have seen their standards of living beaten down until thousands of them and their families are today suffering the pangs of hunger. The harder the steel workers slave the less they get.

JAIL MINER ON FRAME-UP THEN BURN HIS HOME

Jim Roberts, an unemployed miner of Middlesboro, Ky., and a member of the National Miners' Union actively taking part in building the N. M. U. in Kentucky, known in this section as a man of temperate habits, found himself in jail charged with possessing liquor, which had been obligingly planted in his home for "evidence."

Roberts is seriously ill from miners' asthma which, together with starvation and misery, is his "reward" for slaying many years for his master in the damp underground, often in water up to his knees, so the authorities let him out on bond, but not until his home had been "mysteriously" burned down while Jim was locked up. Just an added warning to Jim to mind the consequences of defying coal operators' iron rule.

This is but one example of terror raging in Southeastern Kentucky. The most terrific efforts are being made by the coal operators to stop the rapid organization of the N.M.U.

N.M.U. leaders are hounded, often not sleeping twice under one roof for a month at a time. Their homes are raided and if they should happen to be at home at the time their lodging is exchanged for the county jail.

The Kentucky miners are finding ways to continue their work in spite of the terror and the spies planted in their midst, but it is the duty of the workers all over the U. S. to protest against this terror.

Send telegrams and resolutions of protest to Governor Sampson.

Support the struggle of the Kentucky miners while they heroically strengthen their organization into a mass union which will defy all efforts of the bosses, their thugs, and the government to disorganize.

The general ten per cent wage cut caused widespread disgust on the part of the steel workers and many of them are openly talking strike. But thus far there has been but little actual organization. The point has now been reached where hundreds of steel workers realize that they must prepare organization machinery to line up all the workers so they can fight against wage cuts.

With the regular spy system maintained by the steel trust in full operation, combined with the terror drive that has been raging in Birmingham and throughout the state of Alabama against the Negro workers and all white workers who dare openly talk about united action against the steel trust, the workers have to use care in taking the first organizational steps.

Organize Every Department
Steps are being taken to extend to every department the groups that have been organized in a number of departments in the steel mills and that have for some time been carrying on agitation in preparation for resisting wage cuts and the speed-up.

Of the 50,000 workers engaged in the steel industry in and around Birmingham, there are some 11,000 in the biggest single unit, the Tennessee Coal and Iron, and it is in that part of the steel trust that the greatest progress is being made in setting up organizational forms.

The steel workers of this section are about equally divided; half white and half black. The white steel workers are beginning to understand very clearly that the campaign now raging against the Negro workers of this city is a part of the steel trust game to keep the working class divided so the trust can continue to rob and exploit them. On the other hand many of the Negro workers are carrying on agitation among the masses of unemployed Negro workers so that the white bosses and their paid agents, the Negro capitalists, the Negro college professors, teachers and preachers will not be able to use the unemployed Negro workers as strike-breakers, as the labor fakers at the head of the American Federation of Labor unions say they will. The A. F. of L. unions here exist only on paper—

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Birmingham Steel Workers Organizing All Mills

aside from a handful of barbers, printers, building workers and a few everything they can to prevent the other small crafts. The bosses let steel workers or any other workers them alone because they know their so-called leaders will never harm the cuts.

Follow Pittsburgh Decisions

Many Birmingham steel workers are studying the decisions of the work of the 423 delegates who worked out a program of action at the Pittsburgh -Youngstown-Ohio Valley conference of the Metal Workers Industrial League held in Pittsburgh on Sunday, September 26.

Although the Birmingham steel workers had no delegates at the Pittsburgh conference there are a number of steel workers here who are taking the initiative in organizing along the lines laid down at the Northern conference.

Organize Birmingham Strike

While the 423 delegates that attended the Pittsburgh conference went back to 59 key mills in 48 towns to organize against the general 10 per cent wage cut and to knit together Metal Workers Industrial League groups into mill locals of a Steel Workers' Industrial Union and to rally the workers behind the demands adopted by the conference, they could not include Birmingham, for the reason that no one was there from Birmingham. But, in spite of that fact, the Birmingham workers have selected their key mills and will carry on the same kind of work as those who did attend the conference.

And at the next conference Birm-

Foster, Leader of 1919-20 Steel Strike, Speaks

At the opening of the conference Joe Dallett was elected chairman, and six vice-chairmen were elected from Youngstown, Steubenville, Sparrows Point, Maryland, McKeesport, Monesson and Gary.

John Meldon, national secretary of the Metal Workers Industrial League, analyzed the situation in the steel industry and explained the principal demands around which the steel workers will be organized. These demands include wages of not less than \$5 a day for every steel worker; end of Jim-Crowism; equal pay for equal work; special youth demands; full pay for all time spent in mill; the right of injured workers to remain at home with full pay without report-

Organize Details of Strike Action and Launching New Union

The final business of the conference after the adoption of the demands, was to instruct the national committee of 21 which was elected at conference, to call a convention that will establish the Steel Workers Industrial Union no later than Dec. 15, and even sooner if the situation warrants it.

Following the close of the conference the National Committee for the Building of the Steel Workers' Industrial League met and adopted a program of strike tactics for the struggle that must come. The program of action is to be immediately printed by the thousands and distributed in all steel centers.

"Steel and metal workers face now the fiercest attack in the history of

Must Organize and Fight Bosses as Only Way Out

"For the steel workers there is only one way out of the pit of growing mass unemployment, increasing speed-up and deepening misery into which they have been plunged by the steel barons. This is the way of organization and struggle—the way pointed out by the Metal Workers' Industrial League."

"Poverty, slavery and actual starvation—or organization and struggle. This is the situation we face. The steel barons have put the issue to us in the crudest and most brutal form.

way Workers Industrial League. We shall call upon all workers to consider our struggle their struggle to support us and join with us, to defeat this new attack upon the working class."

When the demands about which the steel workers will be rallied to fight were proposed the steel worker delegates present responded enthusiastically, frequently cheering.

The demands about wages include:

No wage cuts. Strike against the 10 per cent wage cut.

Abolition of the "stagger" system method of reducing wages.

No less than \$5 per day for any worker in the mill.

Equal pay for young workers.

Full pay for all time spent in the mill.

No less than four hours' pay for each time called to work.

General increase in wages for all steel workers. Higher percentage of increases for lower paid workers.

No attachment of pay for debt. No deductions by company from pay.

Right of all injured employees to remain home at full pay without reporting until fully recovered.

Some of the other demands include:

Abolition of all forms of speed-up.

Full crews on all jobs.

Enforcement of eight-hour day.

No double turn, no overtime work.

Recognition of mill and department committees elected by the workers.

Abolition of the spy and blacklist system, abolition of company police and guards, abolition of company towns.

No discrimination against Negro workers.

Abolition of all Jim Crow rulings.

Abolition of finger printing and compulsory physical examination.

Right of all employees to select their own doctors at company expense.

In addition special demands were adopted for fight against unemployment. These include:

No payment of rent by unemployed workers.

Reduction of rent for part time workers.

No evictions for non-payment of rent of unemployed or part time workers.

MANY WOMEN YOUNG WORKERS IN B'HAM

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The director of the Census today announced general occupation statistics for Birmingham, Ala., for the 1930 census. There were 113,245 gainful workers 10 years old and over in Birmingham in 1930, constituting 43.6 per cent of the total population of the city (259,678) and 53.4 percent of the population 10 years old and over. In 1920, the number of gainful workers was 79,152, forming 44.3 percent of the population and 54.7 percent of the population 10 years old and over.

Of the gainful workers of Birmingham, 81,046 or 71.6 percent were males and 32,199, or 28.4 percent were females. The male gainful workers formed 79.6 percent of all males 10 years old and over in 1930, as compared with 81.9 percent in 1920, while the female gainful workers formed 29.6 percent of all females 10 years old and over in 1930 as compared with 27.6 percent in 1920.

Distributed by color and nativity, 60,947, or 53.8 percent of the total gainful workers of Birmingham were native white; 3,273, or 2.9 percent, were foreign-born white; 48,999, or 43.3 percent, were Negro; and 26 were of other races.

Distributed by years of age, 101 of the total gainful workers were 10 to 13; 585, or 0.5 per cent were 14 or 15; 2,460, or 2.2 per cent, were 16 or 17; 5,021, or 4.4 percent, were 18 or 19; 18,480, or 16.3 percent, were 20 to 24; 34,666, or 30.6 percent, were 25 to 34; 26,479, or 23.4 percent, were 35 to 44; 16,571, or 14.6 percent, were 45 to 54; 6,607, or 5.8 percent, were 55 to 64; 1,904, or 1.7 percent, were 65 to 74; and 291 were 75 or over. In 1920, there were 266 workers 10 to 13 years old; 829 workers 14 or 15; and 1,546 workers 65 and over.

Of the 32,130 female gainful workers 15 years old and over, 12,002, or 37.4 percent, were single (including those with marital condition not reported); 10,936, or 34.0 percent, were married; and 9,192, or 28.6 percent, were widowed or divorced. The proportion of married women gainfully occupied was 18.9 percent in 1930 as compared with 16.7 percent in 1920.

WAGE CUTS EVERYWHERE

The United States Labor Department report shows that during one month from July 15 to August 15, 221 industries cut wages of tens of thousands of workers. Now comes the general wage cut. Workers must fight and stop these cuts.

SICK WORKERS HAIL FIGHTING PAPER OF SOUTHERN MASSES

The following letter received from a group of workers at Spivak, Colo., sanatorium speaks for itself. If other workers, far more able to support their paper than these, would put forth even part of the effort to maintain the SOUTHERN WORKER we would be able to print a bigger and better paper and to reach tens of thousands where now we reach but a few thousand.

The dollar, made up from the pennies of the sick workers was used to help get the paper into the terror region in and around Harlan, Ky., in defiance of the thugs and gun-men of John Henry Blair and the sneaking gang of post-office riflers and mail stealers working for the same gang that keeps Judge Jones as a watchdog of capitalism.

Following is the letter:

Spivak, Colo., Sept. 18, 1931.

SOUTHERN WORKER, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dear Comrades:

We, the sick workers, victims of the White Plague, now confined to bed in the sanatorium at Spivak, Colo., send to you (although a little late) our revolutionary greetings to the occasion of the First Anniversary of the SOUTHERN WORKER, the voice of the exploited masses (white and colored) in the South.

It is with great delight that we read about the stubborn fight of the workers against the bosses in the South.

As an expression of our greetings we send you a dollar (from the pennies contributed by the sick comrades) in order that you will be able to go on with the wonderful work, calling the workers to rally around the Communist Party, the vanguard of the toiling masses in the U. S. A.

We appeal to all the workers to follow our example and help to keep up our dear weekly, the Southern Worker.

With Comradely greetings for the S. W. Group.

Tennessee Miners Organizing in N.M.U.

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Frank Borich, national secretary of the National Miners' Union reports that frequent letters are received from miners in Tennessee coal regions, reporting progress being made in organizing the miners to resist wage cuts. One of the letters contained the following:

"We are doing our best down here in Tennessee, shut in from the rest of the world until about a month ago when a comrade from the N. M. U. came down here and opened our eyes. We have been doing our best to organize this place and have done fine so far. We have got some of the mines nearly solid now. The men at most of the mines don't make an average of 50 cents a day and are not making half a living. I am going to do my best to help organize this place solid."

The headquarters of the National Miners' Union reports that the miners well understand their new policy, namely "the localizing of the struggles

TEXTILE WORKERS TO ACT

LAWRENCE, Mass.—In reply to the announcement of the bosses that textile wages would be reduced 10 per cent October 12, the National Textile Workers Union is preparing strike action.

around the key mines, on the basis of local demands.

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FROM THE MILLS, MINES AND THE FARMS

TELL STOCKHAM WORKERS THEY SHOULD SAVE \$

(By Worker Correspondent)

BIRMINGHAM — Stockham Pipe has gone back to work after a ten-day lay-off and the bosses are beginning to tell the workers that winter is coming and that times are going to be harder than ever. The workers had better save their money, so says the bosses. But I don't see how can a working man save money when he gets \$8 or \$9 a week. We are working as hard for this as we did for \$20 and \$25 a week before the wage cuts began and we began on short time work. Then they tell us to save just to see if we can live still cheaper than we now do, so that they can cut wages some more.

Now, you friends just listen to me; it is no better time than now for us colored and white workers to line up and show the boss that we are tired of this stuff.

This is from

—A HARD WORKER

Young Workers Must Fight For Wages and Hours

GREENVILLE, S. C.—I am a young worker of Greenville, S. C., and at the present time I am working at a dairy.

I have to work seven days a week, and the hours are not limited as to how many hours that I am to work a day.

I go to work in the morning at 4 o'clock and I have to work until ten or eleven o'clock in the morning, then I get a couple of hours off for lunch, then I have to go back to work and work until anywhere from six to nine o'clock.

The wages I receive are so little that I can hardly exist on them. I only make 35 dollars per month for these long hours.

Lucky enough, I am not married. If I was I guess that I would starve on these little wages, but there are families that have to live on this little pay, and some are not making this. There is a man that works at the same place I do and he makes the same money I do and works the same hours I do. He has a wife and three children to feed off these miserable wages, you can imagine how he lives.

Fellow workers, how long are we going to let these big fat bellied bosses rob us out of a right to live? How long are we going to stand by and see our children starve? How long are we going to sell our complete life to the boss for such a small wage? How long are we young workers going to let these big bosses shove us off into war to fight for their profits?

Let's answer these questions with the best answer that I know of. Let's tell these big bellied bosses that we are not going to stand for it. Let's join a real fighting union that won't sell us out and fight against these miserable conditions.

Join the Trade Union Unity League and not the A. F. of L. for we workers of the South know that the A. F. of L. has already sold us out time and again, so let's don't fool with them again. Join the Trade Union Unity League and fight against wage cuts and starvation and fight along side with our unemployed fellow workers for Unemployment Insurance, against Eviction, for Free School supplies and clothes for Unemployed workers children.

Youth Starving In No. Carolina Must Organize

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—I am a member of the Young Communist League. The Young Communist League is a fighting organization in the struggles of the young workers. There are thousands of white and Negro young workers starving to death here in Charlotte. Why are these young workers starving? Because the dirty boss class wants them to starve and are starving them so that they will work cheaper.

I know where there is a worker that does not have food and clothes for her child. She works at a laundry from 7:30 in the morning to 5:30 in the evening and does not get but \$2 a week. This is only enough to pay her rent. If she does not pay her rent the landlord will throw her in the streets. If she buys food to eat and don't pay her rent she will have no place to stay. The dirty boss class don't care where she will stay as long as they get the money out of her.

Comrades this is not only one worker but thousands of them are like that here. But how can this be stopped? The only way is to organize and fight against these conditions. Join the Young Communist League and help carry the fight on.

—A Young Communist League Member.

HOOVERVILLE

To show their contempt for Herbert Hoover, more than 400 unemployed workers near St. Louis, Mo., living on the banks of the Mississippi river in shacks made of old pieces of wood, scraps of tin, old boxes, or anything that can be thrown together have named the place "Hooverville." Another place nearby is called "Hoover Heights," because of Hoover's great prosperity for the working-class.

HELL IN PRISON COAL MINES OF 'SUNNY' TENN.

CHATTANOOGA — Have just come out of the hell of 30 months in Brushy Mountain.

The prisoners work in Brushy from sunup to sundown at mining. You are supposed to get one cent a pound payment, but the warden always manages to get this by telling you your coal is no good and docking you. I worked 30 months and did not get anything. My buddy worked 30 months also, and got about \$1.50 a month, but this was for working extra.

You eat the worst slop they can find—just beans and old bread. This summer peaches did not cost anything—so for six weeks we got nothing but peaches, on which we had to work at mining all day. You get only two "meals" a day.

The water you get to drink is drunk first by the mules.

If you do not dig your load of coal every day, you are whipped. All the time the guards beat the prisoners; many of them are beaten to death with a whip 6 feet long that weighs 9 pounds.

The mining work is done under the worst conditions. Prisoners are always getting killed by falling slate and other things caused by don't-care methods of mining. They don't even furnish us lamps—we have to get them ourselves. Men have to mine coal lying on their backs in water. Last winter almost everyone was down with typhoid fever.

Across the state line the miners in Kentucky are starving because all the coal that workers can buy has been mined already, and we were sweating to mine this coal for nothing.

—Worker Correspondent

Defy Sheriff By Mass Action and Halt Evictions

(By Worker Correspondent)

BIRMINGHAM—Despite the terror that is being instigated by the white banker, landlords and Negro real estate and fake business men, when the news got out that the sheriff and his lackeys were going to throw the furniture of a young Negro worker out into the street because he is unable to pay his rent, the workers in Woodlawn, Kingston, South Side and North Birmingham showed their militancy and readiness to meet the sheriff and take actions.

This young worker used to work at Stockham Pipe but has been out of work nearly a year. When he got the statement of rent from the company he reported it to other workers. The Red Cross heard about it and asked the landlord to have "mercy" on the worker, but they were told that unless the money was paid the worker and his family would have to get out.

The workers were at the house at ten o'clock Saturday morning; they did not ask for mercy, because their motto is: "stop evictions." We saw what "mercy" is shown workers at Scottsboro, Camp Hill and everywhere else, so we just stayed and the sheriff and his gang and the red cross have done nothing yet. Workers here are demanding free rent for the unemployed, free lights and water, free food and unemployment insurance.

AUSTRALIAN WORKERS DEMAND MOONEY RELEASE

Australians workers have, in a number of big mass meetings, demanded of Governor Ralph of California, the immediate and unconditional release of Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings.

FARM PRICES ARE LOWEST SINCE PRE-WAR

The index of prices paid to farmers for farm products reached a new low level on September 15, being 72 compared with 75 on August 15 and 111 on September 15 a year ago, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The groups showing major price declines for the month were fruits and vegetables, and cotton, and cottonseed. Only the dairy and poultry products show an advance. The bureau says that the September 15 farm prices for practically all groups of agricultural commodities WERE THE LOWEST ON RECORD for that month over the period covered by the farm price index, since 1910.

Dairy and poultry products at 93 are 2 points below the previous low of September, 1911. Meat animals, at 86, are the lowest since the winter of 1911-12. And the indices on grains and on cotton and cottonseed, says the bureau, "are the lowest by far in years."

The September 15 average of wheat prices received by growers at local markets was 35.7 cents per bushel, or nearly 50 percent below the price a year ago, which was itself a crisis year, and more than two-thirds less than the average September price of the preceding five or ten years.

The September 15 farm price of corn at 43.2 cents per bushel was less than one-half the average price a year ago. Hogs sold for an average of \$5.44 per 100 pounds at the farm on September 15, contrasted with \$9.44 on that date a year ago. The corn-hog ratio of 12.6 bushels is the highest ratio for this season of the year since 1926. In many states, wheat is cheaper than corn.

The farm price of sheep at \$2.80 per hundredweight on September 15 was one-third lower than prices a year ago, and lambs at \$5.04, about one-fourth lower. Cotton brought 5.9 cents per pound at farm prices on September 15, and cottonseed \$8.93 per ton. The farm price of potatoes at 60.1 cents per bushel on September 15 was 45 percent below the price on that date a year ago.

According to preliminary estimates by the bureau, the index of prices paid by farmers for non-agricultural products was 127 in September as compared with an index of 72 for prices of farm products. The ratio of prices received to prices paid is placed at an index figure of 57, which is 43 per cent below the 1909-1914 pre-war average.

WHITE THUG SHOOTS HELPLESS NEGRO PRISONER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Willie Peterson, Negro miner suffering from tuberculosis, was shot three times in the Jefferson county jail here by Dent Williams, brother of one of the girls killed on the night of August 4th. Since the shooting of the girls the sheriff's force the police and the newspapers have increased their campaign of terror against the Negroes. Willie Peterson was arrested a few weeks ago, taken to Kilby prison, then brought back last Friday to Birmingham where Sheriff J. F. Hawkins and Police Chief McDuff permitted the armed brother of one of the girls to enter the jail and unload his gun at the unarmed and imprisoned Negro.

Peterson is in hospital in a serious condition. When the Negro was shot a part of the militia was called out, although everything was peaceful in the entire city.

Virginia Tobacco Growers Up In Arms Against Starvation Prices

(By a Farmer Correspondent)

DANVILLE, Va.—Yesterday was the opening day of the warehouses and the farmers began to bring in their crop to be priced by the agents of the Tobacco Manufacturers. There were also big crowds of small farmers and tenants who came in to find out what they will get for their tobacco crop this year.

Instead of paying for the tobacco the Tobacco Manufacturers have decided to take the crop from the farmers this year. Farmers stated that this is the first time in their life when tobacco is priced so low in spite of the fact that quality of this year's crop is pretty high.

Last year's average of tobacco sales in the first days was 12 to 15 cents per pound, yesterday's average admitted by the local press was 2 to 3 cents per pound. After the warehouse and the auctioneer takes out their part the following situation was on hand: Farmers received checks for only a few cents for hundreds of pounds of tobacco.

One farmer brought in four hundred and some pounds and got a check for 25 cents.

Beside this low price of tobacco something else happened that brought about a revolt of the farmers. The Government agents were right there to collect the loans the small farmers made to plant the last crop. The sentiment of the majority of this meeting, in his speech he made the following statement: "I am a small farmer I don't make anybody else work for me, I worked hard to produce this crop and if this crop is taken away I am of the opinion that we will have to get our guns and take what we need. I still have the red blood of my forefathers running

in my veins."

The United Farmers League is on the job, one thousand leaflets were printed in the hurry and distributed today. Jack Carson represented the U. F. L. at the meeting this morning and in spite of the gang in control secured the floor and spoke for ten minutes until forced to stop by the Government Agent Chirman. The small farmers listened eagerly to the talk where the sellout of the starving farmers was exposed and a program of struggle outlined. The following steps were proposed:

Committees of small farmers and tenants, share-croppers (where there are such) be set up in every farming community.

Marches of small farmers, tenants and share-croppers on the County Seat to put forth the following demands:

1. That the government buy the tobacco crop from the starving farmers at a price set by the above mentioned committees.

2. The immediate cancellation of all debts including Government loans on this year's crop.

3. Abolition of taxes on land property or other belongings of the share croppers, tenants and small farmers.

4. Government supply of free fertilizer to the above mentioned categories of tobacco growers.

5. Winter relief in cash to the farming families now in distress.

The Southern Worker

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Smash Wage Cutting Drive

More than one week has passed since more than 5,000,000 workers received wage cuts ranging from 10 to 50 percent. Workers and their families are forced to reduce still further the starvation level of their existence.

The bosses may think that they have succeeded in putting over their wage cut. But they are mistaken. Already there have been a number of strikes. In every industry in the country, without exception, the workers are looking for a way to smash the wage cutting campaign.

The one thing that has thus far prevented wide-spread strike action is the lack of organization in the big industries of the country. But this is rapidly being overcome.

The recent conference at Pittsburgh of the Metal Workers Industrial League laid the basis from which to start organizing the steel and metal workers of the country. Already the work of organizing the miners for strike action is proceeding under the banner of the National Miners' Union. The textile workers, under the leadership of the National Textile Workers' Union, are swinging into action. The marine workers are being prepared for struggle under the guidance of the Marine Workers' Industrial League.

Negro and white, native-born and foreign born, employed and unemployed, organized and unorganized, women and youth, are mobilizing on a CLASS basis to resist wage-cuts and to develop the necessary power to launch a counter-offensive against the bosses.

While it was not possible for the metal conference to issue a general strike call, nevertheless definite organizational steps are being taken to mobilize for strike action by setting up mill, local and district committees of action. Briefly the preliminary steps now being taken are as follows:

(1)—The carrying on of a national agitation throughout the industry around the slogan of "organize and strike against the wage-cuts," with the holding of mass meetings, setting up of mill, local and district action committees to organize strikes and the building of the union.

(2)—The calling of local strikes wherever possible and practicable and then spread them as far as possible.

(3)—The spreading of such spontaneous strikes as may develop.

(4)—The calling of a National Convention at once in case of big strikes developing, in order to issue a broader strike call.

On the basis of the demands printed in another part of this issue of our paper, these organizational forms can be put into effect and broad masses of workers mobilized for strike action.

It is of the greatest importance for the whole working class of the country that the workers in the big industries of the "New South," the industrialized South, destroy by strike action the hopes of the bosses to find in the South an unlimited supply of cheap, docile labor power.

Organize and strike against wage cuts!

Don't Starve! Fight!

Capitalist Politics In Tennessee

Now that Governor Horton's political boss, Luke Lea and his political ally in the leadership of the Democratic Party in Tennessee, Rogers Caldwell, have been convicted of pillaging banks, there are all sorts of moves and counter moves on the part of a score of groups to control the democratic machine.

The latest aspirant for the governor's job is the notorious Major George L. Berry of Rogersville—who holds his office as head of the International Printing Pressman's and Assistants Union by regularly stealing elections; an individual who has the record of having helped the publishers of the big newspapers break every strike the members of his own union have called during the many years he has been in control of the union funds, an alleged union leader so generally despised that he dare not visit New York, Philadelphia, Chicago or any other large city without an armed body-guard for fear of being killed by some of the men he has betrayed. A number of the local pressmen's unions have not met for years because Berry prohibits it—they have to pay dues directly to Berry and have nothing to say about the conduct of their own union. If they dare strike Berry furnishes union strike-breakers to take their jobs.

This low crook would be a fit successor to Governor Horton, who is so involved in the Luke Lea-Rogers Caldwell graft that he doesn't dare call a session of his own legislature for fear the members will be forced to save their political faces, to impeach him for complicity in the bank looting.

Horton is rotten—no one can deny it. But his principal crime consists, like Luke Lea, in becoming too sure of himself, getting careless and being found out. Anyone who thinks that there is even one member of the Tennessee democratic political machine, who was not implicated in the bank graft is a plain damn fool.

Besides Berry's aspirations, the state republican machine, trained in Hoover-Tea Pot Dome politics, hopes to take advantage of Luke Lea being found out and get their clutches on the treasury.

Workers and poor farmers must understand that both political machines function as instruments of the ruling class—both of them use state power for breaking strikes, imprisoning workers and beating down our standards of life. No matter what apparent opposition develops between them as election campaigns approach they are all united against the workers and farmers.

Only the Communist Party is the defender of the toiling masses and in the coming elections the workers and farmers should repudiate both democrats and republicans and vote and fight for the Communist program.

Another Mill Cuts Wages

The Brandon Mill, Greenville, S. C. has just cut wages 10 per cent. It is interesting that this cut comes soon after the National Textile Workers Union organizer, Clara Holden, was kidnapped by 5 men just as she was leaving the Brandon Mill village, where she had been talking to some workers.

Brandon Mill has been one of the leaders in the campaign of terror against the mill workers. It is known that the cloth worn by the KKK is provided by Brandon Mill, and the KKK do their masters' bidding by frequently parading through the Brandon Mill village in an attempt to keep the workers from joining the NTWU.

Weavers formerly making \$18 and \$20 on 26 looms, are now stretched out to 40 looms, and can barely make \$16 a week. Battery hands are stretched from 64 to 72 batteries and make the measly sum of \$8.75. Spinners, who before this cut, were only getting 19c a side, are now cut to 17½c a side. As in the other mills in Greenville, the Brandon workers are forced to report every morning at 7 and again at 1, even though they may only get 3 or 4 days work a week. Many old workers have been fired and also many men. There are probably more women working in the Greenville mills than men.

General Cheating Drive

Brandon workers are victimized and cheated in all kinds of ways. If workers take their own money out of a Christmas Club before Christmas, they are fired. The management likes to get the interest on the worker's money. Workers failing to report one night for work, are often told to stay out the whole week. Night hands who are supposed to get a 30 minutes lunch period, are always forced to start work after 15 or 20 minutes. While the workers stretched out and forced to try to live on starvation wages, Mr. Aug Smith, president of the Brandon Mills, gets his \$37,500 a year and Mr. Hatch manages to scrape along on \$15,000.

This 10% cut at Brandon is the last in a series of cuts that have taken place in the Greenville mills in the last 3 months—Woodside, Judson, Monaghan, Duncan and Piedmont Plush mills have all been cut from 5 per cent to 15 percent. Further cuts will undoubtedly take place in the next few months.

The mill owners in collaboration with the A. F. of L. are trying to keep the workers fooled and keep them from joining the National Textile Workers Union. At the very time that NTWU organizers are kidnapped and their lives threatened, A. F. of L. organizers are conducting a campaign of speech making. At the different mills, apparently with the consent of the mill owners. The Rev. Paul Fuller, well-known for his famous disappearing and sell-out acts, has even been brought in, by the A. F. of L. So far, they have had no success, as the workers are wise to them, from past experiences.

The mill workers of Greenville believe in the policy of the National Textile Workers Union—the policy of struggle. They also are convinced that all the mills should strike at once—not, as in the past, where several mills struck, in and near Green-

ville, but each one separately.

Brandon workers and other mill workers of the south, have been driven just about as far as they are going to let themselves be driven. The bosses will soon crack the whip once too often. Greenville workers, and other mill workers of the south, will come out on strike under the leadership of the National Textile Workers Union.

They will put up another real fight, as they have done before—in Gastonia, Marion, Elizabethton, Greenville and Ware Shoals. Southern workers are fighters.

This time they will win!

Illiterate Alabama to Close More Schools

MONTGOMERY.—Within 30 to 60 days the schools in some 35 counties of Alabama will have to close, officers of the Department of Education stated, unless funds for teachers' salaries are available. Many teachers have not been paid this term and have no money and are appealing to the Board to relieve them some way. Lamar and Coosa county schools may close this week unless relief comes.

The state government and the various city governments continue to maintain huge corps of police, sheriffs and deputies and to maintain state militia equipment to fight the workers in the cities and the croppers on the land. They have plenty of money to crush the workers, but nothing to pay the workers in the public schools or to furnish children with clothing and food so they can attend school without suffering pangs of hunger.

NAME HOLDEN KIDNAPERS

The Communist Party and Young Communist League of District No. 16 (So. Carolina) has been distributing a leaflet to the mill workers in and near Charlotte, giving the names of the men who kidnapped and beat Clara Holden, organizer for the National Textile Workers' Union. One of the kidnappers is a known pimp and his name is Frank B. Major, and he lives at 32 Ross Street, Brandon mill village; the others are "Rick" Lundsford, Gene Ross, John M. Spearman and M. D. Garrett. Sheriff Bramlett, who claims there was no kidnapping, is branded as a liar in the leaflet and it is pointed out that he is paid by the bosses "the same as the five pimps" and that is why he protects the five.

FINDS NEW GRAFT

Some freak who calls himself the "White Light League" at Walkerton, Ont., Canada, is trying to start a new religion. He advertises in the "Labor News" of the Federated Press, that people should learn, practice teach the "natural religion," which he says is a "panacea for the world's troubles." Like all others of his kidney, he wants money; it costs 25c to get the first shot of dope—30c if you want a sealed envelope. Workers with any thinking machine will use any two-bit pieces they have to spare for the revolutionary movement instead of helping another religious parasite get an easy graft.

Chattanooga Trade Union Headquarters

The Trade Union Unity League of Chattanooga has opened a center at 1476½ South Market Street, near Main. The center will be open every day.

Workers of Chattanooga, both black and white, are urged to visit the center for information and literature about the movement.

The reopening of a revolutionary trade union center in Chattanooga is especially important at this time when sweeping wage-cuts are going into effect. These wage-cuts are already being felt in the Chattanooga industries.

Negro "Leaders" Defend Lynching

For the past four months the leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have been playing the role of defending lynchings of Negro workers and farmers in Alabama. Since a Negro sharecropper was lynched in Camp Hill and several workers have been lynched in Birmingham, Ala., the N. A. A. C. P. has issued a great number of statements and releases especially to the Negro press, in which they repeat the lying excuses which the Alabama plantation owners and mill bosses give for their cowardly murder of unarmed, defenseless Negroes. In this manner, the N. A. A. C. P., who claim to be the "only organization" fit to lead the Negroes, they, by their actions, give moral support to lynching.

Repeat Bosses' Lies

Like the Alabama murderers themselves, the N. A. A. C. P. leaders say that the lynchings in Camp Hill and Birmingham were caused by "Communist agitation." But they know that thousands of Negroes have been lynched before Communists were trying to organize the Negro and white workers.

White Workers Also Lynched

The job that the N. A. A. C. P. fakers are working at for the white bosses, is to keep the Negro workers and farmers from organizing, and to keep the Negro and white workers from organizing together against the bosses. Although the worst terror is directed against the Negroes, it is also true that white workers and farmers have been lynched. And although the worst kind of slavery is the Black Man's lot, it is true that white men, women and children are also being made slaves in this country.

The white workers are held in penance in the cotton mill towns, steel mill towns and coal mine villages. They should make common cause with the Negroes who are exploited in the South through the present slavery system which is called peonage. Not only the Negro sharecropper must buy from the boss, but also the white mill hands are forced to buy at double prices in the bosses' commissary. He must send his children to the school (when they don't work in the mill or on the farm) and go to a church which are owned or controlled by the plantation owners.

Must Unite Against White Bosses

Black workers and farmers, when they try to organize in unions to defend their interests against the bosses and planters, are prosecuted, hounded and lynched. But also the white workers, when they start to organize against the robber bosses, are herded into jails by the hundreds and shot down by mine guards and state militia. And the two—Negro and white—must get together, without any color line, in the same organizations. This is already being done. The Negro and white Communists are leading this movement.

GRAND JURY FREES MURDERER

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio.—The grand jury has freed Joseph Peterlin, the mine guard who early this year shot and killed 18-year-old William Simon, member of the National Miners Union. The boy was sitting on the ground doing nothing when he was brutally murdered by the coal company thug. The day will come when the thugs, the judges, the jailers and the bought and paid for grand juries will pay plenty for their murder campaign against the workers.