

SEP 18 1933

# The SOUTHERN WORKER

The Paper of The Southern Tollers

Vol III No. 6

Birmingham, Alabama, September 20, 1933

Price 2 Cents

## Call State-Wide Ala. Meeting To Fight Lynchings

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The anger of the masses in Alabama against the wave of terrible and beastly lynchings, will find expression in a state-wide anti-lynching conference. This conference will be held in Birmingham on Sunday, September 17, at 3 p. m., at St. John's Church, corner 7th Avenue and 15th Street.

The call to the conference is signed by seven outstanding leaders, including Robert Durr, editor of the Birmingham World, Dr. E. W. Taggart, of the N. A. A. C. P., and Jane Speed, young white girl of Montgomery.

The call—which is addressed to "all workers and workers' organizations, white and Negro", and "all who sincerely wish to fight lynching," reads in part:

"We have been horrified by the savage and beastly lynchings which took place in Tuscaloosa in the middle of August.

"Within the last few weeks, the lynch spirit has grown more terrible with the blood it feasted on. **24. Scottsboro Boys in Danger**

"The Scottsboro boys are in the gravest danger. The state of Alabama is demanding that they stand trial once more in the blood-stained, lynch-ridden town of Decatur.

"While lynchings are directed mainly against the Negro masses, they are at the same time a means of keeping the white workers in slavery and starvation conditions.

"From this wave of lynchings not one of us,—not one of our brothers or sisters, sons or daughters, husbands or wives or friends—is safe. Today it is the Tuscaloosa boys. Tomorrow the beast of the jungle may sink its claws in someone dear to us.

Join in Conference

"We, therefore, ask every organization of workers, white and Negro, to join in a state-wide anti-lynch conference. Send two delegates from your organization or group."

For more information, write to the Anti-Lynch Committee, 1427 4th Avenue, N., Birmingham, Ala.

## PRICE OF COTTON CRASHES AS SMALL FARMERS PICK CROP

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The big landlords and speculators have skimmed the cream off the high summer prices for cotton, caused by the plowing under and by inflation. And now, when the small farmers, the croppers, the tenants have cotton to sell, the price has sunk ruinously.

More than three months ago, the SOUTHERN WORKER predicted that only the landlords and big speculators would profit by the plowing under, because they would take advantage of the temporary high price to flood the market with (Continued on p. 2)

## MURDER CHARGES HURLED AGAINST JUDGE, SHERIFF, DEPUTIES OF TUSCALOOSA COUNTY BY I. L. D.

### Startling Document Laid Before Grand Jury Proves Deputies Met No Lynch-Mob; Slew Boys With Own Hands; Judge Foster, Sheriff Shamblin Aided Plot

Into the midst of the Tuscaloosa grand jury, which has been quietly "whitewashing" the foul murder of two young Negro boys, the International Labor Defense has fearlessly hurled its charges that three deputy sheriffs, the county judge and the sheriff of Tuscaloosa County are the murderers of Dan Pippen, Jr., and A. T. Harden, lynched on the night of August 12.

These startling charges of the I. L. D. are contained in a document which set forth conclusive evidence that Judge Henry B. Foster, Sheriff R. L. Shamblin, Deputy Sheriffs Harvey W. Holeman and Murray Pate, and Private Detective W. J. Huff, committed or abetted the murder of the two Negro youths. Holeman, Pate and Huff are charged with shooting with their own hands, the prisoners in their charge. Judge Foster and Sheriff Shamblin are charged with directing the murder plot.

Copies of the amazing document have been sent to the Tuscaloosa grand jury, to Governor B. M. Miller, to Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight, Jr., of Alabama, to President Roosevelt, and to U. S. Attorney-General Cummings.

#### Demand Indictment of Officials for Murder

The I. L. D. is demanding the immediate indictment on charges of first degree murder of Foster,

Shamblin and the deputies.

The letter addressed to the Tuscaloosa county grand jury follows in essence:

To the Special County Grand Jury investigating the murder of Dan Pippen and A. T. Harden, Tuscaloosa, Ala.:

The International Labor Defense accuses Deputy Sheriffs Murray Pate and Harley W. Holeman, and

Private Detective W. J. Huff, all of Tuscaloosa, Ala., of shooting with their own hands, murdering and lynching, Dan Pippen, Jr., and A. T. Harden, Negro boys, on the night of August 12, 1933, while these boys were in their custody. Judge and Sheriff Are

Accomplices

We accuse Judge Henry B. Foster (Continued on p. 2)



**JOBLESS RELIEF, UNQUALIFIED RIGHT TO ORGANIZE, and EQUAL RIGHTS FOR NEGROES** are the main demands in the platform of these three candidates for the City Commission of Birmingham. They were nominated by the workers, on the ticket of the Communist Party.

On the left is Marcus Crawford Ellis, candidate for President of the City Commission. Ellis is a former T. C. I. worker, a machinist by trade, member of the A. F. of L. union, and an active leader in the struggles of the jobless workers of Birmingham.

In the center is David W. James, also a former T. C. I. and Pipe Shop Worker. The son of a family of share-croppers, James has been active in the movement of the working class for more than three years. He is running for associate commissioner. His life story, as told by himself, appears on page 4.

The young girl on the right is Jane Speed, formerly of Montgomery. She has been active in the defense of the Scottsboro boys and in the general work of the International Labor Defense. Miss Speed was arrested in Birmingham on May 1, for addressing a meeting of jobless workers and urging them to organize for their relief. She refused to leave jail unless the Negro worker arrested with her, Ned Goodwin, were also freed. She spent 53 days in jail for her part in the working-class movement. She is running for associate commissioner.

**VOTE COMMUNIST** October 3, for jobless relief, cancellation of debts to the T. C. I. and other companies, the unqualified right to organize, strike, and picket, and equal rights for Negroes.

## LEADER OF TEX. UNEMPLOYED IS KILLED IN JAIL

FORT WORTH, Tex.—Comrade T. E. Barlow, organizer of the Unemployed Council and candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Texas during the 1932 elections, died on September 2 in the Tarrant County jail.

All indications point to a foul murder of this leader of the workers, by jailers or by hired thugs of the ruling class.

Barlow, along with N. H. Maccomb and E. E. Hardy, was arrested by police after a mass meeting of unemployed in East Bluff, to protest the cutting off of all relief in the city. Some time later, Barlow was moved from the city to the county jail, and an hour after he got there he was dead.

#### Led Jobless Workers Under Leadership of

Comrade Barlow, the local Unemployed Council has grown from a tiny group into an organization of nearly 2,000 active members. The local Councils have been successful in getting relief for starving workers, and in stopping evictions.

The Ft. Worth authorities have already begun their white-wash of the murder of Barlow. \*

The prison authorities say that Barlow was hurt in a fight with his cell-mate on September 1, and that the cell-mate was released from jail almost immediately after the fight, and is not now to be found. Strange coincidence!

Workers who viewed the body of our comrade report innumerable bruises, cuts and contusions, showing violent and prolonged mishandling by very strong persons.

The militant workers of Fort Worth and of all Texas will not let this crime against their class go unchallenged. They will do their best to root out and accuse the murderers of Comrade Barlow. They are preparing a mass funeral, at which appeals will be made for thousands of new members to step into the ranks and close the gap left by Comrade Barlow's death. Out of the fury of the workers at this murder, will grow a movement the strength of which the ruling class never dreamed.

STACK 3



# THOUSANDS OF ATLANTA WORKERS AT MASS FUNERAL FOR BLIND NEGRO MURDERED BY POLICE

## Murder Charges Are Hurlled Against B'HAM Tuscaloosa Officials By The I. L. D. WORKERS WANT RELIEF PAY IN CASH Officials Use Terror, Raids In Vain Effort To Crush Growing Movement

(Continued from p. 1)  
and Sheriff R. L. Shamblin of Tuscaloosa, Ala., of helping to direct this lynching, and with being the direct accomplices of the three officers named above, in this murder.

We demand the immediate indictment on charges of first degree murder, the arrest, removal from office, and prosecution with application of the death penalty, of the above named Harley W. Holman, Murray Pate, W. L. Huff, Henry B. Foster, R. L. Shamblin, all of Tuscaloosa, in the murders.

The officers stated, and there has been no contradiction, that they left Tuscaloosa with their prisoners at 9:30 in the evening, and that the "kidnapping" which they charge occurred, took place at 12 midnight, two and a half hours later, not more than 40 miles away from their point of departure. That these officers should take as long a time as this driving forty miles on good roads, is not credible.

### Plotted to Murder Negroes

The officers stated that the car in which they transported Pippen, Harden and Clark, was accompanied for the first fifteen miles from Tuscaloosa by an escort car loaded with deputies, and that these deputies were sent back to Tuscaloosa after those first fifteen miles had been traveled. In the light of these developments, this is a clear indication of a plot to murder the three Negroes.

The officers stated that they were met, 23 miles from Birmingham, by two cars filled with armed men, who took their prisoners from them. They make no claim of having offered any resistance to these men. Even if this theory, which we charge is false, were admitted, on this basis alone the officers, charged with the protection of their prisoners, are guilty of murder.

### Terrorize Third Prisoner

The story attributed to Elmore Clarke in his statement before the Grand Jury... we charge was forced from him by intimidation and terrorization.

We charge that they chose a circuitous route, out of the way, in order to find a quiet spot in which to murder their prisoners. We charge that the decoy car set out along the main road to Birmingham at nine o'clock on a Saturday night could have brought back no other report than that at such a time the road was too thickly travelled to permit the carrying out of the plot, of which we charge Judge Foster and Sheriff Shamblin with being the instigators and planners, of murdering these three prisoners out of hand.

### "Mob" Story a Lie

The entire story of the "kidnapping by a mob of armed men," is full of contradictions which cannot be explained away. It is obviously false. We accuse these officers of shooting, murdering, and lynching Dan Pippen, Jr., and A. T. Harden, and with shooting and attempting to murder Elmore Clarke, with their own hands.

In a conversation with Frank B. Irwin, Birmingham attorney for the International Labor Defense, Judge Foster refused to grant him permission to interview Harden, Pippen and Clarke in Tuscaloosa

county jail, after Irwin had been retained by the relatives of these defendants. Judge Foster said in so many words that his reason for this refusal was that "he did not want another Scottsboro case in Tuscaloosa."

In a statement of justification for the lynchings, after they occurred, Judge Foster said that "a determined feeling to keep this from being another Scottsboro case" had prompted them. Since he himself announced that he had this "determined feeling" before the lynchings, this statement must be referred to himself, and his complicity is established out of his own mouth.

### Judge Threatened Murder

It is recorded in an affidavit made by I. L. D. attorneys present at the time, that Judge Foster in court on August 2 threatened to kill with his own hand the sender of a telegram denouncing his action in barring the attorneys from the case after they had been retained by relatives of the defendants.

We accuse Judge Foster of encouraging the murders which did occur, by a pronouncement on the bench of his court, quoted above.

We accuse him of the murder of Pippen and Harden for the purpose of avoiding another "Scottsboro" exposure of his own court.

### Sheriff Was Party to Plot

We accuse Sheriff Shamblin of plotting, together with Judge Foster, the murder of Pippen, Harden, and Clark, and with direct complicity in carrying out this plot.

We accuse Sheriff Shamblin of being a party to this plot, and of ordering the prisoners taken out of Tuscaloosa jail in full knowledge that they would be murdered by the deputies in whose charge he put them, and with the intention that they should be murdered.

His complicity is proved by his failure to charge his deputies with a murder which they clearly committed; by his announcement that he would "back them to the limit" in the Grand Jury investigation, permitting the immediate burial of Pippen and Harden, the day following their murder, without an autopsy; permitting and abetting the destruction or obliteration of all clues to the murder at the scene of the crime.

### Grand Jury Is White-Washing

#### Body

In making these demands, the International Labor Defense holds forth no illusions about the role of the Grand Jury addressed, pointing out that the fact that it is composed solely of white businessmen, professionals and landlords, of the same "better class" element which promoted and carried through these lynchings, that its "investigations" are directed by Atty-Gen. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., whose activities in attempting to legally lynch the nine innocent Scottsboro Negro boys are notorious throughout the world; that it was called and is directed by Judge Foster, whom we accuse of the murder under investigation, are sufficient proof of its intention to whitewash the lynchings.

The International Labor Defense, in the name of hundreds of thousands of Negro and white toilers

### BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The Red Cross workers of Birmingham are getting sick and tired of being starved, driven and cheated. On all the Red Cross gangs, there is talk of a city-wide Red Cross strike to force better conditions.

These workers remember that the relief workers of Memphis, Tenn., stopped a wage-cut by a militant and determined strike only a couple of months ago.

Most of the Red Cross workers get either a No. 2 or No. 3 relief check. A No. 2 check calls for \$3 a week in groceries, at the rate of \$1.50 a day, if there are six in the family. If there are only three in the family, the No. 2 check is given every other week. That is, the Red Cross workers are expected to feed, clothe and otherwise care for their families with 50 cents per WEEK per person. A No. 3 check, which calls for \$4.50 per week, is given every week to those with eight in the family, or every other week to those with four.

### Not Like Animals

Every bit of the relief is in groceries—none in cash. And the workers are even told what groceries they can get! A little fat-back—no real meat, and some cornmeal, and so on. "We're being treated like cattle," the Red Cross workers say. "We have about as much

choice of our feed as horses who find their nose-bags stuck on the ends of their noses every so often."

The men work in cemeteries, churches and parks. Both white and Negro workers are hitched to plows, instead of mules. The T. C. I. used to let out to the Red Cross, the nine mules that weren't working anyhow. But the work was so hard that it killed off some of these mules. So the T. C. I. said they wouldn't give out any more mules. Now the Red Cross hitches workers to the plows instead. After all, a mule costs money!

When there is no cash relief at all, it is mighty hard to get along. One worker reported that his little boy woke up at night with a terrible toothache. A dime would have bought a little medicine to help him until morning. But there wasn't any dime, because the Red Cross doesn't think the workers know how to take care of their own money.

### Charged for Free Flour

The workers are charged for the Red Cross flour that is marked: Not to be sold.

The Red Cross workers want most: Cash relief, which they can spend for the food they want and for their other needs. Not less than 30 hours a week at not less than 30 cents per hour. Union wages for skilled work. Water to be turned on for all families, without deposit, and old bills to be cancelled. No discrimination against Negroes. Free rent for jobless workers.

demands an investigation of these lynchings by a jury containing Negroes, and white sympathizers to the cause of the liberation struggles of the Negro people.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

### ATLANTA, Ga.—

The mass protest funeral for Glover Davis, the blind Negro man recently murdered by Policeman O. W. Allen, was attended by thousands of Negro and white workers. Although the Rev. J. T. Dorsey, scared by the Chief of Police, T. O. Sturdivant, showed his true color of yellow and tried to keep the meeting from being the protest funeral he had originally agreed to, the meeting was a great success. White and Negro workers crowded the streets around the church by the thousands. Scores of rough-neck police, led by Chief Sturdivant, who is under indictment himself for stealing public money, paraded the streets trying to scare the workers away from the funeral.

### Bosses Worried

Since this mighty protest against police brutality, the white ruling class of Atlanta has been foaming at the mouth. The growing unity of white and Negro workers gives the bosses something to worry about. The steady growth of the I. L. D. and the power it has to rally white and Negro workers to join in this mightiest protest ever witnessed in Atlanta, the biggest funeral ever staged in Atlanta according to old inhabitants, has caused the white ruling class to try to terrorize the workers. The day after the funeral, Prosecuting Attorney Hudson with eight beefy detectives, raided the I. L. D. office

found in the Carnegie Library of Atlanta. At this raid of the I. L. D. office there were no warrants, and no arrests were made, although Hudson comes out in the capitalist press with his lies about arresting Ruth Mulkey and Walker Martin.

The I. L. D. is growing in Atlanta. The Communist Party is growing. Although the brutality of policemen scares the undertaker who is in business for profits, and the servant of the Lord; J. T. Dorsey cringes like a whipped cur before police threats, the workers are not scared. The Negro and white workers are more and more realizing the necessity of united action. The ruling class cannot split or scare them with police and detective raids.

## Price Of Cotton Crashes As Small Farmers Pick Crop

(Continued from p. 1)

cotton they have stored in their warehouses since the fall of 1932.

### Cotton Mills Closing

How much market the little farmers can now expect, is shown by the closing of dozens of cotton mills all over the South. The market is not expanding because the buying power of the masses has

at 141 1/2 Auburn Avenue, taking stationary, literature, records, and library books which can even be

## Fincke Workers On Strike Again; Boss Broke His Promises

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Girl workers of the Fincke Cigar Company are again out on strike, following the failure of Ed. Fincke, the president, to keep his promises regarding better working conditions.

The toilets are still in an unsightly condition. The girls still sprays water on the girls when they go for material. Extra faucets have not been installed to the sinks. Fincke attempted to have six girls jailed on charges of putting the toilets out of commission.

During the first strike, Fincke became a member of the N. R. A. The A. F. of L. racketeers who invited themselves into the strike, advised the girls that to continue to struggle would mean rebellion against the government.

The girls soon found that the Blue Eagle brought them nothing but a wage-cut. On a piece-work basis, the girls received \$1.70 for 400 cigars. Under the new wage-scale, they get \$1.50 for the same amount of cigars.

### Old Trick to Divide Workers

Mr. Fincke has tried to divide the workers by re-employing only those girls who are American citizens, leaving those who are technically Mexicans, to starve. Fincke was sore at the way all the girls, American and Mexican, stuck solidly together during the strike.

cannot go on piling up materials in their warehouses indefinitely.

The big fellows were quite well aware that the higher price would last only a little while, and they knew when to get out. It has come out that a telegram, signed International Market Forecast Bureau, was sent on August 17 to Fenner and Beane, national operating cotton brokerage house, advising short sales in cotton. "Buying power has spent its force," says this telegram, and goes on to predict that "cotton is heading for 8-cent level."

The landlords are putting into their own pockets the money the croppers are supposed to receive for their plowed-under cotton.

## TAMPA BOSSES USE TERROR IN PUTTING OVER N. R. A. CODE

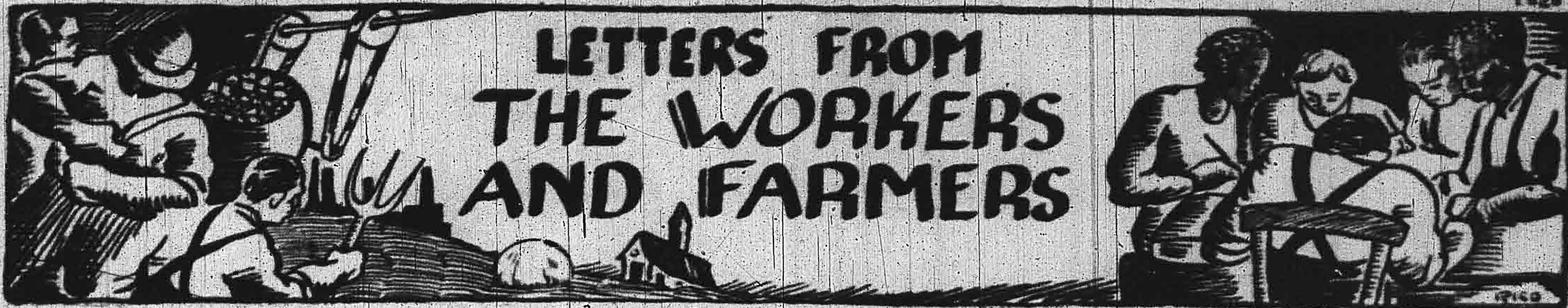
TAMPA, Fla. — In order to break the strike of 10,000 cigar workers here, against the wage-cutting N. R. A. code, the employers and police have started a terrible wave of terror throughout Tampa.

The police have raided homes of workers. They have arrested 23 and beaten up eight others. Several Negroes were among those beaten, and one of them had an ear chopped off.

### Increased Unemployment

After thus terrorizing the workers, the bosses were able to put over their cigar code. Although a minimum wage scale was adopted, there was no increase in the piece-work rate. The workers are expected to make the minimum by speed-up worse than they have known before. This, and the introduction of new machinery, has thrown many cigar workers out of jobs.





# "Re-employment is Only In the Papers," Say Jobless in Arkansas

## MIGRATORY COTTON PICKERS NOW OUT OF JOBS BECAUSE OF PLOWING UNDER

(By a Worker Correspondent) NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Re-employment has turned out to be something we read about in newspapers, but that is not found in stores and factories. The hundreds of migratory workers who in former years used to pick cotton, find these jobs eliminated by the "plowing under" drive of Roosevelt.

Public works jobs in Pulaski County consist of repairing roads for plantation owners, cleaning up bankers' real estate, church property, and cutting weeds along railroad right-of-way. Men have worked at cleaning out ditches, sewers, sweeping streets, but the usual discrimination was made, by putting Negroes on this work, and white men chasing around in garbage trucks.

ers, while much of it rotted and was hauled out to the city dump. The present scale of pay is: single men, 8 1/2 hours a day at 30 cents, or \$1.95. Family man with one dependent, 13 hours, or \$3.90. Married man with four dependents, 17 hours, or \$5.10. Negroes get seven hours a week, or \$2.10 flat, far below the average for white workers.

The Unemployed Council is demanding an increase to 50 cents an hour, equal pay for equal work, no discrimination against Negroes. Prices have sky-rocketed as much as 40 per cent. This increased cost of living must be met with demands for increased relief.

## Jobs Are Fewer, Prices Higher, and Farmers Get Less

(By a Worker Correspondent) OXFORD, Miss.—Unemployment in Oxford has greatly increased since a few weeks ago. The workers working on the roads financed by the government were fired because the supervisor refused to increase the pay from 75 cents a day in scrip to \$1.45 a day. The workers have found no other jobs.

Rockefeller's gas stations in Oxford, instead of putting on more workers, are firing the Negro workers and putting on white workers in their place. Negro delivery boys, whose pay was increased from \$3 to \$4 during the first week of the N. R. A. ballyhoo, are now finding their pay cut back to \$3.

### Prices Sky-Rocket

Meanwhile prices went sky-high and are still going up. Where three months ago, cotton-seed meal could be bought for 75 cents a hundred pounds, and chicken feed for \$1.25, today meal costs \$1.75 a hundred, and chicken-feed \$2.50. The farmers used to get 20 cents for butter-fat and 15 cents for fryers. Now we get 15 cents for butter-fat and six cents for fryers.

## EVERYTHING IS UP BUT WAGES

(By a Worker Correspondent) MEMPHIS, Tenn.—The situation at the Forest Chemical Products Company is very sorry. The work for the colored man and woman is poorly paid.

Their business is good. All their products have advanced in the last few weeks, but not wages.

## HITCH MEN TO PLOWS IN RED CROSS FIELDS

(By a Worker Correspondent) BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The capitalists are pressing the workers as never before. People are starving in a land of plenty.

When I was working I gave my hard-earned money to the Red Cross, and now I am in need and they refuse to help me.

I passed a field where the Red Cross has 30 men working. Some were rolling vegetables to the edge of the field in wheel-barrow and some were binding them up. I never thought I would live to see the day when men had to pull plows like mules the way the Red Cross is making them do for a very little grocery order. And if you don't do this, then the Red Cross will stop your groceries. That is what a white man has to do, and the Negro's work is worse.

The Red Cross will underbid to get a job and make the same worker or another one do the job for just his food.

Some men have to work in waist-high water.

# Cotton-Picking Time In Texas Brings New Slavery For Jobless

## THOUSANDS THROWN OFF RELIEF ROLLS, SENT TO FIELDS AT STARVATION PAY

(By a Farmer Correspondent) AUSTIN, Texas.—The first plowing-up of cotton tells its own story. It is well known that the land-lords stand to get most of the money which the government is giving as compensation. Cotton which would have brought \$50 an acre to the small farmer, had it been harvested, is bringing 20 through the plow-up.

One farmer states that he is unable to hire pickers for what he has left, since he has no money. His wife and two children, one of whom is only six years old, became ill from trying to pick in the intense heat.

Farmers in Williamson County are faced with a loss of 22,000 acres of plowed cotton because of floods, with the remainder selling

part on the job. Unless the pickers get clothing, many of them will be frozen long before the snow flies.

In Madisonville, in the Rio Grande valley, it is reported that pickers are taken to the fields, but that they must get back the best way they can. If a man does not work more than three or four days, he is charged \$1 for his trip out to the field.

In Bexar County, cash relief was closed out when A. W. Green, representative of the U. S. Department of Labor, asserted that cash made it impossible for him to recruit labor to the cotton fields.

## Landlord, Relief Man Combine to Starve Croppers

(By a Farmer Correspondent) CLOUTIERVILLE, La.—There is a landowner near Cloutierville, who has nine share-croppers and one "fourth" hand on his place. Practically all he has advanced his croppers this year is meal, lard, sugar and coffee.

One of the share-croppers wrote to the Emergency Relief Administration of the State of Louisiana at Natchitoches. The Paris director of relief sent someone down to see the landowner, and the landowner told the field worker that he was furnishing the cropper and the cropper did not need help. This cropper had written that he and his family were starving, as all the landowner was furnishing was meal, sugar, coffee, and lard.

Then the landowner said to the cropper: "The relief woman was here to see about you, but you are a liar and don't need any relief."

"We're Sorry You're Starving"

The Paris director of relief wrote the cropper as follows: "Your landowner is furnishing you at the present time. We are very sorry if you are in such destitute circumstances. We cannot help you."

Two other croppers of this same landlord were arrested for stealing a beef. They told him: "If you would feed your people, they would not have to steal." He replied: "I feed them all I think they ought to have." But his books will show what he has advanced his people. Very little food, and no clothes or shoes.

There are one thousand chances to one that this cropper will not come out with any cash after he has made his crop.

## ARMY RECRUITING OFFICERS ROUND UP BOYS ON SOUP-LINES

(By a Worker Correspondent) SAN ANTONIO, Texas.—U. S. army recruiting officers from Fort Sam Houston, located near here, make the rounds of the soup-lines and railroad yards, searching for cannon-fodder. "It's easy to get in the army now," homeless boys are told.

The local police help out the recruiting officers by giving vagrants their choice of going into the army or going to jail. The boys even have a song about this practice.

### A SWELL GRAFT



"It has become the custom in North Little Rock"—writes the worker-photographer who snapped this picture—"to use labor hired by the Emergency Relief Committee to keep the real-estate holdings of the bankers and insurance companies in good condition. At the time this picture was taken, the temperature was 100 degrees in the shade. These men are drawing \$1.95 to \$5.10 a week. They must work feverishly under pressure."

## Ky. Miners Find That "New Deal" Means Pay-Cuts

(By a Worker Correspondent) MIDDLESBORO, Ky.—Allow me just a few lines in regard to the "new deal" for the coal miners.

I have talked with several miners from different mines about the N. R. A. One miner at Ford Ridge mines a machine man, said that before, he could make as much in three days as he now makes in five.

Another said the operators announced a 10-cent raise, but the flour he paid 30 cents for three months ago, now costs from 25 cents to \$1.20 for 24 lbs., and all commodities accordingly. So really, he got a wage-cut.

### Terrific Stretch-Out

Here in Middlesboro there is an overall factory, where the workers are beginning to get a taste of the N. R. A. When the "new deal" went into effect, they were working on a piece-work system from 9 to 15 hours per day.

The boss then had a test to see how quickly they could get out a bundle. Some workers, not knowing what the boss was up to, worked as fast as they could. Now the ones who can't make the \$12 per week at the high rate of speed and low rate of pay, are out of

### Workers Starve While Food Rots

Other work is cutting wood, and working the Community Gardens. Instead of the hungry workers getting the vegetables which they raised, some of the truck was dumped on the curb market, in competition with small truck farm-



# THE SOUTHERN WORKER

The Paper of the Toiling Masses of the South  
Official Organ of the Communist Party of the United States  
JIM MALLORY, EDITOR  
Address: Box 572, Birmingham, Alabama

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VOL. III SEPTEMBER 29, 1933 No. 6

## Answer The Tuscaloosa Murders With A Mass Anti-Lynching Conference!

IN a startling and carefully drawn-up set of charges, the International Labor Defense has accused the officials of Tuscaloosa County of the planned murder of Dan Phippen, Jr. and A. T. Harden, two Negro boys.

Every idea on the subject of lynching, that the ruling class, its schools and its press and its hangers-on have tried so hard to impress upon us is shattered once and for all when we read and understand this amazing document of the I. L. D.

We have been told that the officials of the law, the judges and the courts, are the protectors of the weak. And now we can see with our own eyes that what the Communist Party, what the International Labor Defense, have said, is true: the officials of the law, the judges and the courts, are the instruments of the employing and landlord class, to carry out their will. These officials are themselves agents of the lynchers.

Rather than see lawyers hired by the I. L. D. defend their clients, and expose the Tuscaloosa frame-up for what it was, the officials whipped up lynch spirit and drove the attorneys out of town.

Rather than allow the case to go on, rather than allow the facts of the frame-up and of Negro oppression, to come out into the open, the Tuscaloosa officials plotted and carried out the murder of their prisoners. That was their job—to protect the system which hired them. It is always their job. The Tuscaloosa case merely demanded a more stringent action than these officials are usually required to take. At that, the Tuscaloosa murders are by no means isolated examples. The same thing has occurred hundreds of times in the South. But the I. L. D. was not always there to expose it.

Leave the administration of justice in the hands of our just officials of the law—the hangers-on of the ruling class, the Inter-racial Commission and the N. A. A. C. P. The officials will apply

Administrators of justice? Protectors of the weak? THESE MEN ARE LYNCHERS AND PLOTTERS AND MURDERERS! When they cannot carry on their lynching quietly in the courtroom, they drop their robes and their badges and take up their guns.

A surge of fury and anger is sweeping the toiling masses of the South at the revelations made by the I. L. D. in Tuscaloosa. And it is not only the Negro masses who feel hate and anger for these murderers and oppressors of their people. Had it not been for the International Labor Defense, the white workers would have been forced to bear the burden of blame for the Tuscaloosa murders. The officials

## THE STORY OF MY LIFE

By DAVID WILLIAM JAMES  
(Candidate for Associate Commissioner of Birmingham on the ticket of the Communist Party)

I was born in 1903, in a little town 23 miles South of Montgomery, Ala. This is in the heart of the Black Belt, where the landlords keep thousands of Negroes in perpetual bondage.

My father left our home when we children were small. When I was ten years old, my people began share-cropping. We never could get out of debt. We never did get enough to eat.

**Trouble With the Landlord**  
One morning I did not get to work as early as the landlord thought I should. He cursed me and threatened me with a knife. I defended myself. He got a gun and shot at me. I was then forced to leave the plantation.

I went to Montgomery. I worked in an oil mill, 12 hours a night, getting \$2.50 a shift. It was work on one of the most terrific speed-up conveying systems, throwing back cotton seeds from the belt.

When I came to Birmingham, I worked for the F. C. I. Steel Car Shop at Westfield, operating a punching machine. The boss there used white against Negro and Negro against white.

I trained a white worker to operate my machine; then the boss gave him the job and I became the helper.

In 1910, I went North, but found conditions only a little better for the Negroes there. I entered the plastering trade, and joined the Plasterers' Union. There also I found discrimination.

**I Find the Communist Party**

On March 6, 1930, when the world's masses came out to demonstrate against misery and starvation under the leadership of the Communist Party, I joined the demonstration. There I first realized what unity of white and black meant.

In 1930, I came back South. Shortly afterwards I joined the Communist Party. Since then I have been a loyal fighter for my class.

of the law committed a foul crime, a beastly murder—and this crime, this murder, they attempted to fasten upon the white workers and farmers. It is not the first time that white toilers have been slandered to cover up the lynch-murders of sheriffs, deputies and judges. If anything more is needed to tear away the veil of illusions from the eyes of the toilers, white and Negro, the revelations of the I. L. D. supply that need. We know now that the law will not protect the Negro people from the lynchers. We know that the law and its officials are part and parcel of the lynch system.

We must ourselves organize the struggle against the lynchers. On September 17, in St. John's Church, in Birmingham, there will be a state-wide anti-lynching conference. To that conference there should come white and Negro toilers, representatives of mass organizations and groups, to take thought on the question of lynching and organize against it. A successful conference on September 17 will be a first step in a successful struggle against the lynchers.

## This Year They Plow the Cotton Under; Next, They Plow the Croppers Under

Cotton which millions of workers and toiling farmers need for clothing, has been turned back into the ground in accordance with the will of the big landlords, speculators and their representative in Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Every method at the disposal of the rich Southern landlords has been used to force the destruction of this important crop. The croppers and tenants have gotten their orders—plow under or get out! When false promises and appeals to patriotism didn't work, terror began to walk the cotton fields. Plants were pulled up, and fields were burned by night-riders.

Meanwhile, the landlords and speculators are taking in the profits. Stored away in their barns lies the cotton they took from small farmers, tenants and croppers in the fall of 1932. This surplus they threw on the market, while the high price lasted. The big fellows knew that the price wouldn't hold long, and they did their selling quickly.

"My landlord credited me with four cents on my cotton last year, and now he's selling that same cotton for 10 cents." That is what dozens of croppers and tenants are writing to the SOUTHERN WORKER today.

Now the agricultural office in Memphis is sending out the cotton checks. Here's where we tell a little inside history. At first, it was planned to send out checks direct to the croppers for the cotton they had plowed under. When the rich landlords of the South heard that, they grabbed their hats and rushed off to Washington. They said: "If you pay these checks to the croppers and tenants for the cotton they've plowed under, we won't be able to take the money from them to pay their debts to us. Send us all the checks instead."

And the government—which is, you know, a government of, by and for the rich landlords and employers—did just that.

Now the Secretary of Agriculture, Wallace, is already planning to restrict the cotton crop, to restrict the cotton destruction into 1934. In fact, he says, we need a permanent plan to restrict the cotton crop.

What does this mean for the croppers? If a landlord is going to raise one-fourth less cotton, he'll need one-fourth less croppers. Already many of the landlords are planning to get rid of many of their croppers before the next planting season.

Today they plow under the cotton; next year they'll want to plow under the croppers! The landlords plan to drive from their fields and cabins, the croppers, the tillers of the soil.

The croppers and tenants must plan now the struggle against such mass evictions from the land. To carry on this struggle, we need a strong, fighting union. Thousands of new members must enter the ranks of the Share-Croppers Union and the Farmers Committees of Action.

No evictions from the land! No plowing under of croppers!

## DADEVILLE R. F. C. SENDS NERVIEST LETTER EVER

DADEVILLE, Ala. The nerviest letter ever written was put in the hands of the Dadeville R. F. C. workers here a short while ago.

The letter was signed by Mrs. Katie W. Cross, Director of Social Work for the R. F. C. It is quite plain that it was sent out at the orders of the local landlords and merchants, who are scared stiff that the laborers will get it into their heads to demand higher wages.

Here is what the letter says in part:

"Because the R. F. C. has been paying you thirty cents per hour, and working you eight hours per day, this DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU ARE TO DEMAND OR EXPECT the same price and same hours elsewhere. In other words, when you are not working on the road, you will be expected to work at prices the local people are able to pay. The eight hour law does not apply to agriculture, domestic servants and odd jobs."

## COMMUNIST CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY JUDGE



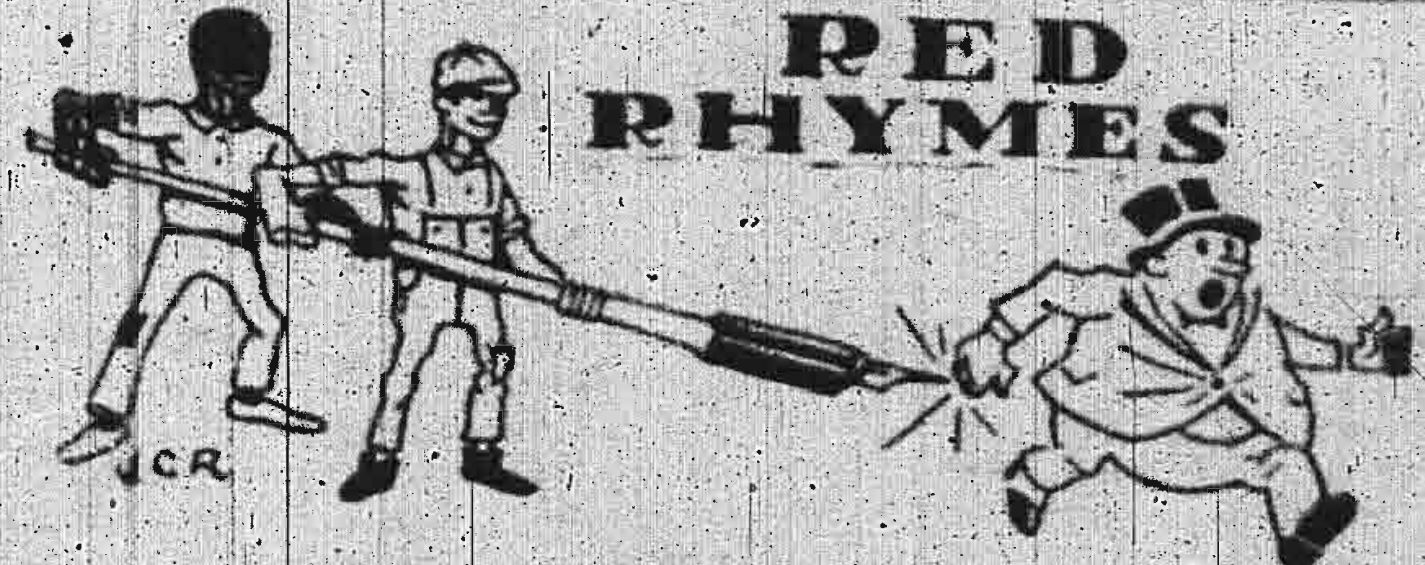
COMMUNIST CANDIDATE FOR SHERIFF



The workers of Kentucky have named a Communist election ticket in spite of terror. Two of their candidates are pictured above.

On the top is Tilton Cadle, coal miner, and candidate for County Judge in Bell County. On the bottom is George Cor-mang, candidate for Sheriff. He is shown with his young son.

## RED RHYMES



BY BELL MORTON

IT'S a rotten, crazy system that destroys the stuff for clothes, that plows the cotton under and would make our plenty less, while there's men and women walking round with nothing on their toes, while there's little children sobbing in their cold and nakedness. It's a rotten, crazy system that puts back into the ground all the wheat that is too plentiful to suit the bosses' greed, while we see a worker starving every time we turn around, while there's millions of us lacking everything we humans need. It's a rotten, crazy system, and it ain't no good for us, though the millionaires grow fatter and they like it very well. For a Schwab, a Ford, a Mellon, it's a system glorious. But for us, the toiling workers—well, it's just a bit of hell!

What to do about it, comrades? That's the thing we want to know. Well, there's Russia yonder where the workers run the land, where the cotton that is planted is allowed to bloom and grow, where the wheat that's raised in plenty is consumed on every hand. The workers there don't hunger—what they raise they eat and wear. And every day in every way they're raising more and more. They don't have to give their plenty to a lazy millionaire. They don't have to plow it under as the price of things will soar. So if we look at Russia, if we love our wives and kids, if we're tired of the parasites who rob us and betray, then we know we've got to go and do as Russian workers did, and build a workers' government where plenty comes—to stay!