

548

MUST THIS BOY DIE TO SATISFY THE BLOOD-THIRSTINESS OF THE LYNCH RULERS?

Bennie Foster—now only No. 548 in Kilby Prison, Montgomery—is one of the nine Negroes slated to die on Feb. 9. The boy was sentenced to death by a shameless and vicious frame-up, because he defended himself in a fight with a white boy. If the Alabama rulers have their way, the life will be burned out of Bennie Foster's body "to teach the niggers a lesson."

Small Cotton Growers Face Ruin in 1934

CROPPERS UNION PLANS STRUGGLE ON EVICTIONS

Hundreds of thousands of sharecroppers and tenant-farmers of the cotton belt are face to face with ruin. The plan of the government and big landlords, to cut 15 million acres of cotton land out of production this year, means that the croppers and tenants who used to raise cotton on this area are to be thrown off the land, to starve.

The toiling farmers have not been consulted about this plan, which is a bargain between the landlords and the federal government to get better prices for a few rich farmers by throwing thousands of others out to die. Particularly the Negro people, backbone of the cotton-growing population, have not been consulted about the plan. When Secretary of Agriculture Wallace spoke in Birmingham on the cotton acreage reduction, there was not a single Negro among the 6,000 people who heard him.

Government Doesn't Care For Croppers

The government has already said quite plainly that it isn't worrying about what will happen to these displaced cotton farmers. Oscar Johnston, finance administrator of the A. A. A., said recently that the government would leave the fate of these farmers to the

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Emergency hearings for eight of the nine Negroes slated to die in the electric chair. He refused to hold a hearing for Teener Autrey, the only woman of the group.

By PETER CALDWELL
(Southern District Secretary,
International Labor Defense)

"One Negro is as good as another," the Alabama ruling class, the landlords and industrial bosses, are mattering to themselves this month. With the nine Scottsboro boys torn from the electric lynch death prepared for them in Kilby Prison, nine other Negroes, one of them a woman, have been thrown into the death cells to satisfy the blood lust of the lynchers and to "teach the Negroes a lesson to keep in their place."

Feb. 9—Lynch-Holiday

February 9, 1934, has been set aside by the Supreme Court of Alabama as a great holiday for the white ruling-class lynchers. On that day, nine Negroes will have the life burned out of them, one

(Continued on p. 4)

Half of Northern Wage
The minimum wage for the East is 27 1/2 cents an hour—which is mighty low at that. In this low scale, the Southern bosses are reaping the sweet fruits of their policy of dividing the Southern workers, and of oppres-

T. C. I. PROSPERITY BALLYHOO EXPOSED! (See Page 3)

ing the Negroes. And the workers also are reaping the fruits of this division—in the form of starvation wages for white and black after hours of back-breaking labor.

Starving Families Take in Washing

With Negro labor the first to be fired from industry, with Negro croppers being thrown off the farms by thousands, with Negroes on the job getting the lowest wages—what is there for large numbers of Southern Negro families to do but take in washing? And what are the wages of this work? Just whatever the well-off white

(Continued on p. 2)



"THE PRICE OF MILK IS TOO HIGH FOR THE WORKERS AND THE UNEMPLOYED." That is what a delegation of three white women and one Negro woman, led by Mrs. Mary Leonard (pictured above) told the A. A. A. officials at a hearing in Birmingham.

Although Southern employers excuse the lower wages in the South by saying that there is a cheaper living cost here, the price of milk in Birmingham is 14 cents—2 cents above the nation's average. The working women's delegation told the officials: "The wages of the dairy workers are too low; the dirt farmers get too little return for their milk; and the workers' children are sickening for lack of milk."

by five carloads of police and by motorcycle officers. The K. K. K. visited the minister of the church and terrorized him into closing the doors, thus preventing the conference for that day.

Undaunted, the delegates to the jobless conference, backed up by the workers present, pledged themselves to a fight for more relief and for social insurance, and against the proposed sales tax. They will elect delegates to the national jobless conference in Washington on Feb. 3-5.

With revolts flaring throughout the South against the CWA administration, the jobless and the relief workers in Southern cities and towns are preparing to elect delegates to the National Unemployment Conference in Washington on Feb. 3-5, where plans will be mapped out for an organized nation-wide fight on hunger.

Only a Few Get Jobs

Only a handful of workers, in comparison with the great army of needy ones, have gotten jobs with the CWA. Reports from every part of the South show that there is much favoritism in giving out these jobs; those who need them most being shoved aside in many cases for the sons, daughters, and friends of plantation owners, local politicians and so on. In certain places, the officials have used the CWA work to build up the local political machine.

Against the Negro jobless, there is severe discrimination. In New Orleans, for example, the Negroes applying for CWA jobs are getting the old run-around and nothing else. In Louisiana generally, it is the Negroes who are forced to work in the disease-ridden swamps, digging drainage canals and clearing the heavy undergrowth.

Slave-Pact of Landlords and Government

By a shameless agreement between the federal government and the Southern landlords and factory-owners, all CWA relief may be withdrawn from the South in a few weeks. This news is spurring the workers on in their preparations for state-wide conferences which will send delegates to Washington. The plan to withdraw this cash relief is one more proof of our need for a permanent

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This picture, taken at the time of a mass meeting of white and Negro workers in Atlanta at the Holsey Temple C. M. E. Church, shows how the bosses tried to scare the workers and—didn't succeed!

Under the auspices of the International Labor Defense, the workers of Atlanta had gathered to protest the vicious sentences of death handed out to two of the Scottsboro boys at Decatur, Ala. The cowardly sneaking bosses, afraid to show their faces, had their tools, the Klansmen, stand in front of the church handing out leaflets saying "The K. K. K. Rides Again."

Did the bosses succeed? Not by a jugful! The workers simply ignored these cowards who tried to cover their yellowness with a bad-sheet. The church was packed and hundreds were unable to find seats. The Klansmen, seeing the white and Negro workers sticking together unafraid, slunk off, and the meeting went on.

STACK 3

Expel Disrupter, Police Spy From Communist Party

HARRISON DALTON SPREAD DISTRICT AMONG WORKERS

Harrison Dalton, Negro of Birmingham, has been dropped from the rolls of the Communist Party by decision of the District Bureau No. 17, the leading body of the Party in the Birmingham district. The decision to drop Dalton was reached after a discussion which is of the greatest importance to all Southern workers. The reasons for this action were as follows:

1. Dalton openly stated that "all whites are no good." That is what the Negro workers believe, just as they want the white workers to believe that Negro workers are "no good." The bosses do not want the Negro and white workers to realize that it is the white ruling class, the class of white landlords and capitalists, which is grinding down both the white and Negro workers. The rulers are anxious to keep white and Negro workers from uniting in common struggle against them. When Dalton says that all white workers are no good is he following the ideas of the Communist Party? Plainly, no. Instead, he is sowing distrust among workers of different colors, against each other, Party for Organized Action, Not Individual Violence.

2. Dalton on many occasions spoke in favor of individual violence—that is, of single workers or little groups of workers shooting and killing members of the ruling class, police, etc. This also is not the policy of the Communist Party. The Party surely has no love for capitalists, landlords or police, but it knows that nothing can be gained by individual acts of murder. The task of the workers is to organize in the largest possible numbers, particularly on the job, and by their organized mass power force the bosses and landlords to give them better conditions.

3. Dalton was irresponsible and undisciplined, failing to carry out jobs given him by the leading bodies of the Communist Party. He also failed to attend a special meeting called to discuss his activities.

Slandered I. L. D.

4. Dalton dared to state that "the I. L. D. misuses Scottsboro funds", when actually every cent collected for the Scottsboro case has been receipted and publicly accounted for, and has been used for only one purpose—to save the lives of the Scottsboro boys.

Although Dalton has been dropped from the Party rolls, he still remains a member of the International Labor Defense, and if he changes his policies and methods of work he may apply for readmission to the Communist Party.

Expel Memphis Police Spy

The District Bureau also announces the unconditional expulsion of Aubrey Lucas, 22-year-old white police spy, who wormed his way into the ranks of the Communist Party and Unemployed Councils of Memphis, Tenn.

In its difficult job of leading the working-class in struggle for better wages and working conditions, and finally, for the setting up of a working-class government in America, the Communist Party will not tolerate in its ranks those who, pretending to be Communists, actually split the unity of the workers and lead individual workers into acts dangerous and harmful to the working-class.

more about CWA

(Continued from p. 1)
system of unemployment and social insurance for all workers, at the expense of the bosses and the government.

The two most important demands of the Washington conference will be to continue and extend CWA relief, giving cash to all the unemployed, pass the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill which will guarantee to all workers a regular cash income whenever they are out of a job through no fault of their own.

Cut Relief as Planting Time Nears

To oblige the plantation owners of the South, particularly those growing cotton, tobacco and fruit, the CWA officials in Washington plan to cut the cash relief jobs down here as planting time draws near. This action will drive the unemployed to the fields, to work for whatever the landlords choose to pay them. Harry Hopkins, CWA head in Washington, says that he is ready to take all aid from the rural sections if it is "endangering" farm labor—that is, if the CWA wages, by as they are, are driving workers away from "their" landlords, who are supposed to own them body and soul.

South Will Lose Out First

Because of the early Southern spring, the jobless workers below the Mason-Dixon line stand to lose out first. The small cash relief we have wrung from the government by our struggles, is to be taken away again so that the landlords may be assured of a large supply of cheap hands.

The factory-owners, too, are kicking that the CWA wages are taking away some of their workers. So the CWA heads have decided that no worker may leave a factory job for CWA work. The very fact that we find the pitiful relief wages better than the wages in many a factory, shows how bad our conditions are here under the Blue Eagle.

"Cash jobs to all" is one of the chief demands of the workers as they elect their delegates to Washington. Only a pitiful handful have been taken on by the CWA.

Revolts Flare Against CWA

The CWA workers, and the jobless generally, have not been taking these abuses lying down. The entire South has flared with revolts against the driving of the CWA workers on the job, and the starvation of all those who have been kept off the rolls.

At Gulfport, Miss., where only 400 had been taken on, those who had received work cards turned them in, saying that all must work together. The workers and poor farmers in and around Dayton, Tenn., took J. H. Miser, county superintendent of schools, who had charge of allotting some relief work, over the county line and ordered him not to come back.

Strikes have taken place on CWA gangs in dozens of Southern cities, including Chattanooga, Tenn., and New Orleans, La. In New Orleans, 250 white and 150 Negro workers laid down their tools in protest against having to pay \$1.00 for axes that sell in the stores for 20 cents. This strike—which was organized and led by a Negro worker—was won, free tools being given to all.

Relief Workers Organizing

The organization of relief workers is going on fast. The workers

Cropper Who Dared Take Own Share of Crop Faces Death in North Carolina

ROXBORO, N. C.—Charged with murder because he shot and killed his landlord in self-defense, Emanuel Biddings, Negro tobacco cropper, faces lynching or a lynch verdict of death when he comes up for trial January 12.

The International Labor Defense, investigating the circumstances of the case, has uncovered the full story, revealing the direct relation between the lynch charge of murder, and the oppression and robbery of the share-croppers by the white landlords of the South.

Biddings raised a crop of tobacco on shares with his landlord, Clayton—shares being officially set at fifty-fifty. The tobacco was placed in a barn. Biddings went to Clayton's house to tell him he was going to take his half out—he could sell it. Clayton being out, Clayton's wife told him to go ahead. Biddings took his share and brought it to his house.

Landlord Steals the Crop

John Clayton arrived and told Biddings the tobacco must either be returned to the barn, or placed in the pack-house. They went together to the pack house, where they found tobacco belonging to Clayton strewn all over the floor. When Biddings asked the landlord to have the tobacco moved so he could bring his in, he was told the landlord would do no such thing

and ordered not to touch it himself.

Biddings returned to his house, and began to cure the tobacco in his loft, his children passing it up to him. Clayton soon arrived and knocked the tobacco out of the children's hands, pushing one boy against the wall. Biddings' wife, Mrs. Katie Biddings, called to him: "You'd better come downstairs, Mr. Clayton is fighting with the children."

As soon as Biddings came downstairs and spoke to him, Clayton called to his wife:

"I want you to come and hear the last words I am going to tell this god-damned nigger before I blow his brains out." At the same time, he put his hand into his pocket as though to draw a gun.

Shot in Self-Defense

In self-defense, Biddings took down the shot-gun that was just over his head as he stood inside the doorway, and shot down his landlord.

Lynch sentiment is running high among the landlords of Person county, where Roxboro is situated. The case involves directly the right of the croppers to sell their produce, whether tobacco or cotton. By denying this right, the white Southern landlords keep the Negroes and whites working for them in perpetual debt-slavery.

The I. L. D. is raising mass protest among share-croppers, poor farmers and city workers, demanding the immediate release of Biddings.

Protests should be sent to the county court at Roxboro, N. C.

A. F. of L. Fakers Lead in Hounding Negro Employee

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Nelson Jackson, Negro case-worker in the city Transit Bureau, has been fired from his job by government and state officials. It was found that Jackson was using the same stenographic staff as the white case-workers—that is, for a few hours a day he was giving dictation to a white stenographer.

Every person whose business it is to keep white and Negro workers apart—so that both can be kept down—set up a loud howl. And the loudest howl of all came from the misleaders of the A. F. of L. The fakers at the head of the Birmingham Building Trades Council passed a resolution demanding that Jackson stop giving dictation to a white stenographer.

White Stenographer Didn't Object

All this, in spite of the fact that the white stenographer insisted that she had no objection, and that Jackson had acted "more gentlemanly than many of the white case-workers."

These actions by the A. F. of L. bureaucrats show clearly that when they say in words that they want to unite white and Negro, they are lying. Actions speak louder than words, and every action by these fakers is meant to help the bosses keep white and Negro separated, the better to oppress them both.

If you want to join the Communist Party, write either to Box 1812, Birmingham, Ala., or Box 313, Charlotte, North Carolina.

more about LAUNDRIES

(Continued from p. 1)
woman chooses to pay. And these rich women don't hesitate for a second to squeeze an extra nickel or dime from the miserable wages they pay out for the washing.

What has this done to the wages of the Southern laundry-workers? It has brought them down to the point where, in the big Birmingham Laundry, for example, a woman can bend her back over the washtubs or the ironing-board for five days a week and draw down \$2.64 in pay. If she is a white woman, she'll get about \$4 a week in pay. And this \$4 a week pay for Southern white women is the direct result of the low wages and miserable conditions of the Negro women, forced against their will to work for almost nothing in the commercial laundries or over the home tub.

Bosses Want Still Lower Scale

Not satisfied with the low wages they are paying us now, not satisfied that Southern workers are getting even less than the badly-paid Northern workers—the Southern rulers are now hollering for a thirty per cent wage differential. And that's not all! They want a still lower wage than that for "subnormal labor." What does that mean? It means Negro labor and women's labor.

In the last issue of the SOUTHERN WORKER, we showed by plain figures that the cost of living in the South is higher than it is in the North, in spite of the lies of the bosses that we can live cheaper down here. It is not because of a cheaper living cost that the bosses have been able to push our wages down so far. No, it is because these bosses have been smart enough to divide us—white against black, and use one group to push down the wages and living conditions of the other, of all of us.

And the laundry code shows very clearly that this is true.

(Turn to page 3 for a letter from a woman laundry worker in Birmingham.)

more about COTTON

(Continued from p. 1)
"decency" of the landlords. In plain words, this means that the government doesn't give a hang what happens to the evicted farmers.

The toilers in Southern cotton fields know pretty well what this "decency" of the landlords means. It means debt-slavery! It means cheating on accounts. It means the open stealing of crops. It means lynchings! It was the "decency" of the landlords that made them murder Ralph Gray, the heroic leader of the croppers' fight for bread.

Prepare For Struggle Against Evictions

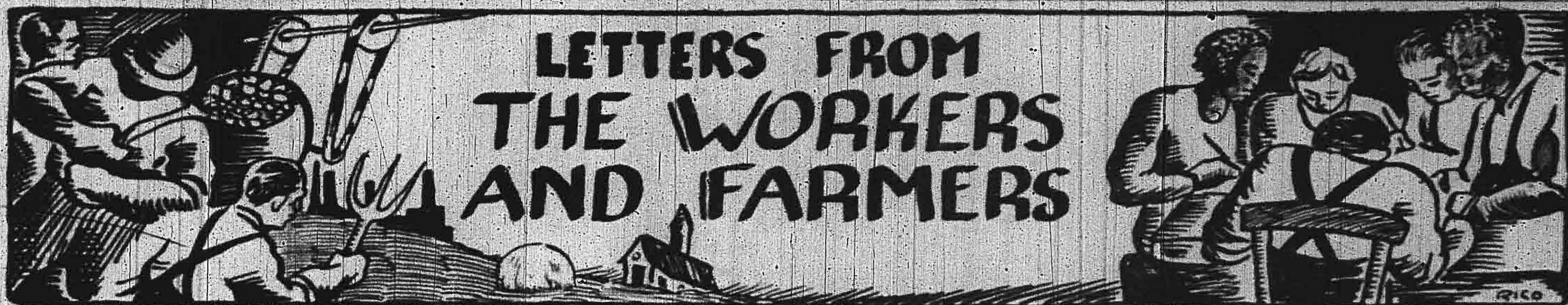
The Share Croppers Union, composed of both white and Negro farming people, is preparing giant struggles against the wholesale evictions and mass starvation that will grow out of the government's crop reduction program. Knowing what the "decency" of the landlords amounts to, they are getting ready to fight back so they can live.



This is the first picture ever published of T. E. Barlow, martyred leader of the Southern workers, who was murdered in Tarrant County Jail, Texas, on the night of September 2. Barlow earned the hatred of the boss-class by leading the jobless workers in a struggle for relief. He was one of the outstanding Communists in Texas.

The workers of Ft. Worth, where Barlow organized a fighting Unemployed Council, are building a lasting monument to their dead leader in the form of a militant movement of the jobless. They have just formed a union of workers on CWA and other relief projects.

The workers of Ft. Worth, under the leadership of the Unemployed Council, have started a relief workers union. In New Orleans, the Relief Workers Protective Association is gathering into one body all workers on relief projects—CWA, RFC, etc. The demands of this union include a minimum of \$12 per week; pay for rainy days; free transportation; no discrimination against Negroes; the right to elect foremen and grievance committees on the job.



LETTERS FROM THE WORKERS AND FARMERS

LETTERS FROM T. C. I. WORKERS EXPLODE STEEL COMPANY'S PROSPERITY BALLYHOO

Westfield Plate Mill 110 Forces Men To Do Overtime Work Without Pay

(By a T. C. I. Plate Mill Correspondent)
 BESSEMER, Ala.—I work in what they call the Westfield Plate Mill 110, which belongs to the TCI. We work two or three shifts a week only.

Instead of quitting at 4:30 as our shift is supposed to do, we often have to work until 4:50 or 5 P. M. We do not get paid for this overtime work at all. With 128 men on a shift and unpaid overtime almost every day, this makes a lot of extra profit for the boss.

NRA Brings Speed-Up
 They cut us 10 cents last April, and then in 60 days another 15 cents. And there has been a lot of speed-up since the NRA.

The company houses are miserable, and there are an awful lot of them. The roofs are in bad shape. When it rains, it rains inside and

Sloss - Scheffield Often Hogs Whole Pay-Check for Rent

(By a Sloss-Scheffield Correspondent)
 BESSEMER, Ala.—A lot of the workers in the Sloss-Scheffield Coal mine have not got any raise at all. They get \$2.16 before the NRA and they're still getting \$2.16. This is the outside workers, tipple men and so on.

There is a very heavy stoppage from our pay—\$3.30 a month for doctor bills, insurance and hospitals. This is paid although you may not need the hospital or doctor at all.

There are a lot less people working in our mine now than before the NRA.

Dead Work—No Pay
 There is an awful lot of dead work to do and no pay for it. That is like setting timber, making floors, laying and moving track.

The commissary here is a big pain. We have to buy mining supplies here, and we'd better buy our food here too or we'd find ourselves out of jobs. Prices are higher than ordinary. When eggs were 23 cents a dozen at Hill's store in town, they were 25 cents in the mine commissary. And so on.

Company Houses Are In Bad Shape

Another big kick is the company houses. They are in bad shape. There is no electricity in most of the white houses, and none in the Negro houses. They take out for our rent before anything else and if you've worked just a few days and made only enough to pay rent, they hog the whole thing for the rent, and then how can we eat?

leaks outside. The company refuses to repair the houses until all back rent is paid up. When we get back to work after a long time of being unemployed, they begin taking out right away for back rent.

To show how things are with us, I will say that the job I am on now in the T. C. I. plate mill used to pay 25 1-2 cents an hour, and now it only pays 22 1-2 cents an hour for the same amount of work.

There's a great difference made between white and black, because the white people get more turnage pay than the Negroes, and also they work full time when Negroes work only one, two or three days a week.

Hardest Work, Longest Hours
 The T. C. I. never has shortened hours in the plate mill, and that is the hardest work there is to do.

N. R. A. HASN'T DONE US A BIT OF GOOD, SAY WORKERS IN PIEDMONT TEXTILE MILL

(By a Piedmont Mill Correspondent)
 ATLANTA, Ga.—Working conditions at the Piedmont Mill in Egan, Ga., are very bad, and are becoming worse under the NRA. I want to tell the SOUTHERN WORKER about these conditions.

There are about 300 workers in the mill. About half the workers live in the mill village. The company takes the rent and light bill out of our starvation pay and we are forced to buy fuel from the company the same way.

Very Little Work
 Only about half the hands get 32 hours a week, and the other half get 15 hours a week. All the hands get 30 cents an hour. So the hands that get 15 hours a week get \$4.50. When the other hands get 32 hours, they make \$9.60 a week, but they don't always get the 32 hours.

If a worker is a few minutes late, the bosses put somebody else on your job, and you are sent home until the next day.

In Debt to the Storekeepers
 Some of the grocery stores give the workers credit for a week for their little meat and bread. The workers pay on the bill each week, but are never able to pay it up. The storekeepers do not let the worker go too much in debt. They do this to hold the workers year in and year out to exploit them and keep them from trying to better their conditions. The workers are bound to the factory owners and storekeepers, just like the share-

NO HIRING GOING ON AT PIPE SHOP OR ROLLING MILL

(By a U. S. Pipe Shop Correspondent)

BESSEMER, Ala.—I work in the U. S. Pipe Shop. After the NRA started, all the middle-aged men were fired and younger ones taken on, and then everyone was speeded up. The work we used to do in 10 or 11 hours is now done in 8. They are working less men now than before the NRA, so when I read in the papers that the TCI is hiring a lot of people, I figure it is just lies.

(By a T. C. I. Rolling Mill Correspondent)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—I read in the papers that the TCI is hiring a lot of people, but I figure this is the bunk because there is almost no hiring going on where I work, the TCI rolling mill.

They are speeding us up so that the work we used to do in six days they now make us do in four.

Wylam No. 8 Mine Cheats Workers On Yardage; Little Pay For Dead-Work

(By a T. C. I. Mine Correspondent)
 BESSEMER, Ala.—I am working in Wylam No. 8 coal mine, which belongs to the T. C. I. We miners work hard all day, but it is very difficult to make \$2.00.

We average 38 to 62 cents a ton. There has been a very slight raise in pay, but it is nothing like the rise in the price of what we have to buy—food and so on.

Cheated on Yardage
 The bosses used to put up a yardage sheet, which showed how much yardage we had, but now they only show the total we make, and we are being cheated on the yardage.

There is also a lot of dead work, like putting up cross collars. Years ago the company paid 50 cents apiece for these, but now only 15 cents. We are also not getting fair weight on our coal.

Get Less Than CWA Workers
 We average 55 or \$6 a week,

which is a lot worse than the men in the CWA are doing.

Of course there is a lot of discrimination against the Negro miners in this mine. They get the worst places to work, where the rocks are heavy and the push is hard. Also, at the commissary store, the Negroes have to wait until all white people are waited on. If you are a Negro and are getting an order, and a white person comes in, the clerk stops getting your order and gets his up first. Then he has a long conversation with the white man and they drink Coca-Cola together and all that time you are waiting. And Negroes can't go into the company office either, although the whites can.

Women Slave All Week in B'ham Laundry for \$2.64

(By a B'ham Laundry Worker)
 BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—We workers in the Birmingham Laundry got a notification that we would get a raise, but we did not get it. We work five days a week and get \$2.64. That is for the colored women. The white women get \$4. What can we do after we pay our house rent?

They do not pay us till Monday night. We ask for our pay on Saturday, but they say: "You don't need it." But I notice the boss doesn't put his work out on credit.

"Speed Up!" Says Boss
 The boss says we will have to speed up. We work from 8 till 6 or 7:30. I have worked 18 hours in one day.

The boss has the Blue Eagle in the window.

NRA BRINGS WAGE CUT TO WORKERS IN DUDLEY BAR MILL

(By a Bar Mill Correspondent)
 BESSEMER, Ala.—Since the NRA came to the Dudley Bar Mill, my wages have been cut down to \$1.50, and two days a week.

We are rushed from 7:30 in the morning until 1 in the evening. We are pressed to death by our superintendent. He says, "Let's go, boys, let's go!"

When we ask about mere wages, they say: "We have got a code from Washington and we can't go above it."

WORKER PHOTOGRAPHERS
 The Southern Worker will pay 50 cents apiece for good pictures of working-class conditions and struggles.

croppers are bound to the landlords.

The charity won't help the mill hands in the village because they say that the hands are dependent on the company for a living. The charity discriminates against them so that the wives and children have to stay at home and starve on Roosevelt's promises.

No Dressing Rooms in Mill
 In the mill there are not any dressing rooms for either men or women. The women get off on corners or behind boxes to change clothes.

The workers are not allowed to talk to each other during working hours. If you do talk, the bosses whistle at you or jerk you by the arm and tell you to get the hell back to your winder or spooler.

No Lunch Hour
 We do not have any lunch hour at all. The bosses expect us to eat lunch while the machines are running. We don't have a place to wash our hands and we would not have time to wash our hands because the bosses keep us speeded up all the time.

The whole building is unsanitary. It is never scrubbed and has not been in the last five years. There are no spittoons so the hands have to spit on the floor.

Drafts and Dampness
 The ventilation is very bad on the health of the workers. The building is run down and dilapidated, and between drafts and dampness caused by the humidifiers the hands are always getting

sick. Sometimes the humidifiers throw water all over the workers and get them soaking wet. The spinning room is so hot that it almost smother the workers.

All through the mill the machines are worn out and patched up. They run badly and this makes the work get stuck often. The bosses make it miserable for the workers when this happens.

The two Negro women scrubbers only get \$8 a week straight wages, regardless of the hours they work. They have the hardest and nastiest work to do. The three Negro men get \$9 a week for eight hours and more a day, five days a week. They have to do all the outside work, like hauling coal and cleaning up.

Warm, Dirty Drinking-Water
 Where we drink water, the water-cooler is filthy. We have to put our mouths on the spigot, because the water doesn't come up high enough. During the hot weather, the company wouldn't put ice in the cooler and the water tasted like fish-water. There is only one water-cooler in the whole place.

NRA Hasn't Helped
 The NRA hasn't done us a bit of good. We don't make even the minimum wage. Prices have gone up so much that we are actually starving on our wages. The A. F. of L. didn't do anything for us but take our dollar and then run away. Conditions are getting worse all the time. We will have to organize to get better conditions for ourselves. We can see now that the bosses, Roosevelt and the A. F. of L. are forcing us to starve.

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more about EXECUTIONS

Continued from p. 1
after the other in the Kilby hot seat. On February 10, the heads of nine human beings, white and black, will be cut off from a powerful choking electric current, while the bosses chuck over their dinners, while the great landlords sip wine and other show and

Who are these victims?

Tennet Aubrey, Negro woman charged with the murder of Rosa Mae McKnight, but mother of Monroe County.

Hattie White, charged with the murder of William, a street vendor of Wilcox County with the murder of Luther Williams, a street vendor.

John Thompson and Lewis Cunningham, charged with the murder of Henry Block, a laborer.

Leo Fontaine, charged with the murder of Robert Martin.

Fred Kinney, charged with the murder of Jim Phillips.

Soborne Hester, charged with murdering Page Brazier with an axe in Selma.

Ernest Waller, charged with murdering Daisy Montgomery in Selma.

Bennie Foster, framed on a charge of murdering Charles McCain in Selma.

A Brutal Frame-Up

It is impossible now to investigate each of these cases and to take legal steps on them. But the horrible story of one of them is enough to show us what a terrible frame-up of this mass murder which the Alabama masses hope to execute on Feb. 10.

Bennie Foster is one of the condemned nine. He is a young worker, just twenty years old. He lies in Kilby Prison now, only a few terrible steps from the lynchers' death chair, and writes: "Don't worry. I don't know what this is all about. I don't know anything about the death of that man. They didn't prove it and no one could say they saw me and they gave me a death sentence, but I can't do a thing but pray and hope that someone will speak a good word for me."

"Tell the Workers About It"

Bennie's sister, Arbie Foster, came to Birmingham "to see these I. L. D. folks" to tell them the story of this frame-up and to ask them to let all the toiling masses of the world know about it. She told of how Bennie had had a fight with a white boy, Junior Welsh, and how the white boy had shot Ben and broke his arm. The bullet is still in Ben Foster's arm in prison.

Finding a "Goat"

"Then Ben hit back, but he did not do much damage because he was hurt so bad himself. He went to the Good Samaritan Hospital, where the sheriff led a mob with bloodhounds to get him and take

him to the Selma County jail. "It happened that some days before that," Arbie Foster continues, "a white man they call C. S. McCain had been killed. No one knew who did it, neither the police. Ben was at my house at the time and it was just about the time McCain was killed that Ben was starting down Halperet avenue to stay overnight at his friend Eddie Mitchell's house."

"When they got Ben in jail, with his arm broken and all, they tortured him to say he killed McCain. I reckon they just naturally had to have a goat. They put him in the rear back, but he wouldn't say he killed McCain."

"Then they took him out late hours and carried him across the Alabama river, and beat him with a pistol. But he wouldn't say he killed McCain, because he didn't do it."

Let Dog Torture Prisoner

Then they took him back to jail and they got a big police dog as high as my waist, and they strapped Ben naked and stuck the dog on him. They let the dog tear at his naked flesh, secret places and all. They told Ben not to dare to touch the dog. He just had to lie there and let the dog tear at him. But he still wouldn't say he killed McCain."

Then the police chief, Norman Stanfield, stuck a pistol right into Ben's mouth and told him: "If you don't admit you killed McCain we'll tar and feather you."

"Ben said: 'I'd rather have any death than a burnin' death, but I won't say I killed McCain.'"

How They Get "Confessions"

"Then the grand jury met and they couldn't find a true bill against Ben for killing McCain. So the police chief came to Ben again and made him sign a paper. That paper was blank. There wasn't a speck of writing on it. But when they brought it into court later on, it was a signed confession."

"When Ben went to court about the fight with the white boy, they

had a lawyer there to defend him who wouldn't do anything for him at all. He said: 'I can't do anything for you on account of the McCain business.'"

"They wouldn't let Ben tell in court about how they tortured him in jail, and they wouldn't let me on the stand to tell it either."

White Boy Won't Testify Against Negro

"They had Ben charged with assault on Junior Welsh, with intent to kill him. But Welsh came into court and said: 'I don't want to see Ben Foster hurt account of our quarrel, because our fight was our business, and I hit him first and I did more to him than he did to me.'"

"But the court didn't pay any attention—just went ahead and sentenced him to die February 9."

There it is. Just another of the victims of a ruling class that may pick you or me as the next victim. For five years of his young life, Bennie Foster, worked, and worked hard, for H. C. Greer. He slaved long hours in a gravel plant for his white boss. But workers' lives are cheap, and maybe the killing of a few more of them could help to keep down the rising tide against oppression, persecution and slavery.

To Burn—For Something He Didn't Do

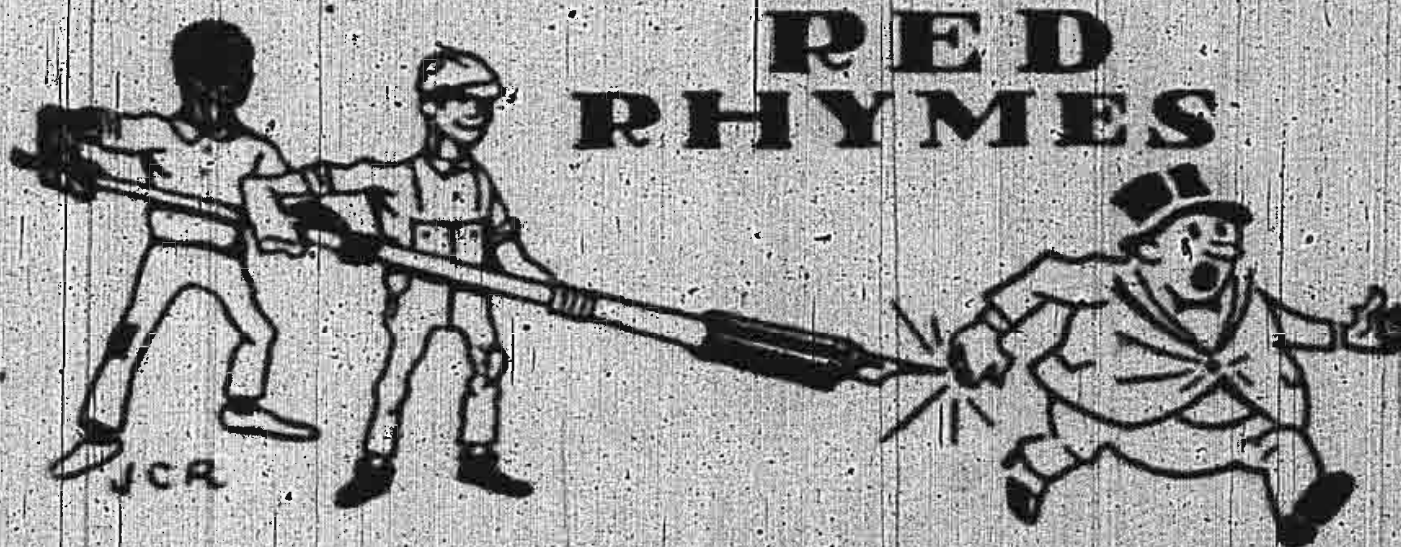
Ben Foster's crime was simply this: he dared to strike back at a white man in a fight. Maybe the next time he would dare to refuse to work at starvation wages.

He writes in a letter: "Just to think I am punished for something I didn't do. If I did anything it wouldn't worry me, but it is so hard on a poor boy when he is held for something and he didn't do it. Look hard, but don't worry. They did kill Jesus and didn't know what they was doing, and it is the same way on earth today."

Ben Foster, and the eight others condemned to die with him, just as the Scottsboro boys, have only one hope. That is in the combined efforts of the workers, Negro and white, who are victims of this same ruling class "justice."

This new and latest challenge to the white and Negro masses of America cannot go unanswered. We cannot hesitate for a moment. It is time for organized mass action. Telegrams, protests and resolutions must be sent to Governor Miller demanding a halt to this scheduled execution.

Let us close the ranks of struggle. Let us save our own!



By BILL MORTON

The Scottsboro boys are innocent of any crime at all, except that they are colored and that they are workers, too. Yet the boss-class lynchers of the South would legally kill them all, would burn them in the hot-seat for what they did not do. We workers of the mills and mines, of cotton-fields and corn, we sweated slaves of gold and greed, with millions lacking bread, must stand up for the Scottsboro boys and see that they are torn from the hands of legal lynchers who would hound them till they're dead. We must organize our millions, we must demonstrate our might, we must raise our voices for them in a no uncertain way. We must show the Southern bosses that we workers mean to fight their greed and brutal lynchings, and to rob them of their prey. We, the workers, look at Russia, where the working class is free, and there ain't no starving millions lacking food and clothes to wear; where for white and black and yellow there is full equality, where bosses' lynchings are not known, and we want that freedom here!

The Workers' Greatest Leader

The greatest leader that the working-class ever had died ten years ago, on January 21, 1921. The name of this man was Lenin. He was head of the Russian Communist Party, which led the workers and poor farmers of Russia to victory against the boss-class. Under the leadership and guidance of Lenin, there was set up the present government of the Soviet Union (Russia)—the first working-class government in the whole world.



LENIN

Ever since Lenin died, the masses of workers all over the world have set this day apart to honor his memory. The workers of the South, too, are this year taking part in memorial meetings for Lenin. For although the Soviet Union is far away, yet what Lenin taught and fought for there applies to all the countries of the world.

Wherever the workers are driven and hungry, wherever the farmers are broke and landless, there Lenin's teachings should be studied. For Lenin showed the way out. He pointed the path to victory for the working-class. What are these teachings of Lenin?

THE WORKING-CLASS CAN RULE

It was under Lenin's guidance that the first working-class government was set up. The Russian workers answered in practice the question: can the workers rule? What kind of government can they set up if they take power away from the bosses and landlords? The Russian workers, under the leadership of Lenin and the Communist Party, set up the first dictatorship of the proletariat. The words mean: RULE OF THE WORKING CLASS. The form of government is one of Soviets—which means, councils or assemblies composed of working-people elected directly out of the factories and farms. Just as the capitalist state—as, for instance, the United States—means the rule of the landlords and bosses, so the Soviet state means the rule of the working-class.

REMEMBER LENIN AS WAR DRAWS NEAR

Today, when there is great danger of war, when nations are arming against one another, the teachings of Lenin on this question are of the greatest importance for us. Lenin said: the workers of a capitalist country have no interest in helping their bosses to fight a war for profits. The workers of America have no interest in shooting down the British workers, nor have the British workers any interest in shooting down American workers. The American workers must fight against their own war-makers—the American bosses, and their government. The British workers must fight the British war-makers. Why should workers poison and maim and kill other workers so that the bosses can own more land and markets?

Lenin taught—and we know that it is true—that the workers of the world have only one fatherland—the Soviet Union. For that is the only country where our class rules. Against the danger of an attack on the Soviet Union, we must struggle with all our power. Only in the Soviet Union is our class in the saddle.

LENIN, LEADER OF THE OPPRESSED NATIONS

To the downtrodden nations—as, for instance, the Negro people of America—Lenin's teachings are a light in the night of oppression.

The form of society under which we live today—imperialism—exists largely by oppressing weaker nationalities. Great Britain oppresses South Africa and India. Belgium bleeds the Congo. The United States oppresses Cuba, the Philippines, and the enormous territory of the Black Belt in the Southern part of the United States.

Under Lenin's leadership, the Communist Parties learned to fight for the right of self-determination for oppressed nationalities, even to the point of separation. This means: the right of an oppressed nationality to decide for itself what kind of government it wants, and to separate from the mother-country if it wishes to do so. In the Black Belt of the South, the Negro majority must be allowed to decide for itself what form of government it wishes. The white rulers of the U. S. want to keep the Black Belt under their thumb so they can sweat profits out of the masses there.

The white workers can gain their own freedom only by supporting the right to freedom of the Negro masses. The rich whites who keep the Negro workers down, also keep the white workers down. Freedom for the whites can never be gained without freedom for the Negro.

WIN BY BUILDING THE COMMUNIST PARTY

How can we win all these rights and powers—the chance to better our conditions, the right of self-determination for the Black Belt, and the final victory in which we will set up the rule of the working-class? They can be gained—and this Lenin said again and again—only if we build up our class party, the Communist Party. This alone can lead and organize the masses.

Who is raising a real fight in the South for better conditions for the workers? Who has led the sharecroppers in their struggle for the right to live? Who has led the great fight for the Scottsboro boys? The Communist Party.

January 21, the tenth anniversary of the death of this greatest leader of the workers, ends the Southern masses living under conditions that grow worse day by day—oppressed, starved and lynched. To the masses of Southern toilers, the Communist Party extends the hand of welcome.

What the workers of Russia, under Lenin's leadership, have done, we, following Lenin's teachings, can do in America, also. We, too, can win bread and peace, and freedom for the oppressed nations. We, too, can finally set up in America a society where, instead of a few big-bellied capitalists and landlords, we—the workers of factories, mines and fields—will be the rulers.