A STIRRING chapter was written in the history of the militant working class movement at Charlotte, N. C., October 12-13, at the conferences of the National Textile Workers' Union and of the Southern district of the Trade Union Unity League.

In an atmosphere of terrorism, when it was uncertain if the bosses' Black Hundred would go night-riding again, 287 delegates from 75 mills and 35 cities and 5 states, representing about 60,000 workers, attended the textile conference.

The T. U. U. L. general southern conference was made up of 40 delegates (exclusive of the textile delegates) coming from 17 cities and 8 states and included Marion workers, miners, building tradesmen, lumber workers, railroads, wood workers.

Had it not been for the atmosphere of terrorism and serious financial difficulties both conferences would have been two or three times as large.

A fighting spirit—which boded ill for conditions. Delegates reported that when women stay more than two or three minutes in toilets they are unceremoniously routed out by the slave-driving "overseers."

Against these hard conditions the delegates were in open revolt. They displayed intense faith in the National Textile Workers' Union to lead them in their struggles. There was the utmost bitterness against the United Textile Workers' Union, which betrayed them flagrantly in the strike in 1921. And they have not forgotten it.

American, to the last individual, they were not shocked by the revolutionary program of the T. U. U. L. nor by the violent newspaper campaign against the conference as Communist and Bolshevik. Their discontent blazed forth.

Of tremendous importance was the unheard-of role played by the Negroes at the conference. The sacred Jim Crow regulations were broken when Alexander (Continued on page 218)
HISTORIC SOUTHERN CONFERENCES
(Continued from page 223)

and Harper, of the Labor Jury at the trial of the Gastonia strikers, and half a
dozens more Negroes sat among the dele-

And right here, in the heart of the
brutally chauvinistic South, these Negroes
dared take the platform and advocate racial
equality and international co-operation.
The white Southern workers reacted to
this unparalleled situation in a greatly
enlightening manner.

They appeared not to be a bit shocked,
gates.

Due to lack of space, greetings ar-
riving late have been omitted and will
appear in the December issue of the
Labor Defender.

An article on electrification in the
Soviet Union and another on MOPR
in the Soviet Union, which were to
appear in this issue, will appear in
future numbers.

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Although all their lives they have had race
prejudices formed into them as a major
principle of the ruling class. They vigor-
ously applauded effective points made by
the Negro speakers.

The textile conference adopted a mani-
festo with the following demands: aboli-
tion of the strikethrough system, abolition of
the 10 to 12-hour day; establishment of
8-hour day for adults and 6-hour day for
young workers; abolition of night work
and child labor; equal pay for equal work
for men, women, Negro workers and
women; $20 minimum wages and recogni-
tion of the National Textile Workers'
Union.

It was well realized by the workers
that since the T. U. U. L. and the N. T.
W. U. had successfully resisted the at-
tacks of the police and fascist gangs, that
the A. F. of L. was to enter the field as
a special reserve force of strike-breakers.

From every point of view the Charlotte
Conferences were a success. They indicated anew the radicalization of the work-
ers in the South, not only in textile but in
other industries. They mapped out prac-
tical, concrete programs. It now remains
for the T. U. U. L. to mobilize all its
forces. The South is on the eve of great
movements of the workers. The T. U.
U. L. must head these mass struggles.