The Southern Worker
The Paper of the Common People of The South

VOLUME V, NUMBER 2
BIRMINGHAM, AL., MARCH-APRIL
Price: 3 Cents in the South, Elsewhere 5 Cents

Hitler Moves To Start War In Europe

Unlike Germany and Japan mobilizes for the purpose of defending itself against the Soviet Union, Italy is preparing openly for European war. Mussolini has declared all big industries in Italy to be under state ownership in preparation for the war that is coming. Austria, Hungary and Italy have united against any move on the part of the League of Nations to stop war and punish Germany for breaking the agreements she made after the last war.

When Hitler sent armed troops into the Rhineland early this year, he openly announced that his purpose was war and that his object was the Soviet Union. The Balkan nations most concerned about the immediate steps of Hitler demanded that he withdraw his troops and be punished by the League of Nations for violating the Locarno Treaty, an agreement of the German government the last war. The treaty forbade Germany to send troops beyond her borders and ordered her to keep her nose out of the territory that did not belong to her.

Attack On Soviet Union

Openly, Hitler's attack seems to be on France and Belgium. In reality, it is the first step in a drive against the whole of Europe. Germany, a wild, Fascist state, is based on a program of war. Because France and the Soviet Union have an agreement to help defend each other in case of attack, Hitler's first step was in the direction of trying to force France to make her decision about the situation.

(Continued on Page Five)

TOWNSEND PLAN INVESTIGATED BY CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D. C. — $10,000 has been granted by Congress for an investigation into the Townsend and other old-age pension plans.

The proposed investigation met with no opposition from members of the Townsend leaders in Washington. They objected, however, to the method of the investigation and the appropriation for the purpose.

Politicians are already screaming for the many votes of the Townsendians and have recently endorsed the campaign of Senator Borah. Republicans condone for presidential candidates.

Klan Killers Stand Trial in Tampa, Fla.

TAMPA — Three of the nation's most elusive lawbreakers, Joseph Shevchaker, unemployed tailor of Tampa, Florida, and his wife and dau-

WPA Convention Strikes Blow at Low Wage Scale

CHATTANOOGA — It is reported that the WPA Convention in Chattanooga has already started to look for the disastrous new wage rates and the low rates that have been in the depression by the WPA authorities. The convention, held here March 21-22, was addressed by Dr. F. E. Townsend.

(Continued on Page Five)
ALABAMA LABOR AT THE CROSSROADS

The Southern Worker

What Are the Main Issues Facing Organized Labor in the State as Annual Convention at Florence Draws Near? A Timely Discussion

Organize the Unorganized in Alabama

One of the biggest issues facing labor today in Alabama is the problem of organizing the unorganized. This issue is especially important in the South, where a large percentage of the labor force works in small industries and is not unionized. The Southern Federation of Labor, which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, is working to address this issue.

Build a Farmer Labor Party

Southern Labor is beginning to realize the gains won on the economic front must be protected by similar victories on the political front. Otherwise, we lose everything through the tricks of the politicians. Our strikes are broken by National Guards or thugs or sheriff's staffs, and, as a political weapon, the farmer is working with the bosses for the bosses. Here in Alabama we see this and we fight against it. Police crack the heads of labor pickets, corn kings, strike workers, and murder union members, as they did Virgil Thomas at Aumon and Sam Dowell at Tuscaloosa.

The Alabama Federation of Labor should pass resolutions calling for the abolition of the dual system entirely and work on a consistent fight to rid the state of WPA jobs and other political interference.

Southern Workers Need Unity

One of the main reasons for the success of the United Mine Workers in the current strike is the unity of the miners. This unity is essential for the success of any labor movement. The UMWA has shown that when miners work together as a unit, they can gain significant concessions from the coal companies.

The UMWA resolution demanded equal pay for equal work and an opportunity for their fellow miners to organize. The UMWA has spoken out for the rights of the miners and is working to ensure that these rights are upheld.

Campaign to Build Steel Union

The Steel Workers Organized Committee (SWOC) has been working to organize the steel workers in Alabama. The SWOC is affiliated with the United Steelworkers of America (USW). The USW has been successful in organizing the steel workers in other states, and the SWOC is working to replicate this success in Alabama.

We recommend that this resolution be passed by the state federation and that the officers be instructed to see that it is actually put into practice.

Sherlock Ike Hunts Reds

The state federation must take more responsibility for organizing the unorganized workers in the state. They should work closely with the SWOC and the USW in organizing the steel workers.

The state federation must also take a stand against the right to vote for the masses of common people. The poll tax deprives thousands of the right to vote. Additional thousands of workers are deprived of the right to vote because they are black. A Farmer Labor Party can be built on the basis of the right to vote for all workers and farmers, regardless of race and color. Its only purpose is to abolish the poll tax.
Downs Expense Account Shocks B'ham Taxpayers

BIRMINGHAM — While Commissioner W. D. Downs came out against the city's spending money for relief of the hungry who are dying on the streets here, he defended himself for spending $177 of the city's money for a week and trip to New Orleans. He said the city of Birmingham would not want its representatives to 'kick-bite' the city. It was a 'sophistication' story, while going to a movie's convention.

So instead of hitchhiking, Commissioner Downs paid $5.49 for railroad fare and Pullman, $14.10 for taxis and meals, and $25.65 for refreshments and miscellaneous expenses. And instead of staying in a hotel, the Commissioner paid $6.39 for rooms and meals for a 3-day visit.

Commissioner Downs has been hard hit by the city's representation of relief expenditures here. He doesn't approve of the city's paying out 2 and $3 dollars a week to the destitute people in Birmingham. Perhaps he is afraid the city would cut his expense account.

Arkansas Tenant Is Given 7 Years

MEMPHIS.—Jim Ball, Secretary of the St. Peters Local, Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, was given a 7-year sentence for assault with intent to kill. He was sentenced by a jury of 12 men, chosen by Arkansas planters and supervised by a judge who is also a large landowner.

Jim Ball was arrested for trying to prevent a meeting when a union meeting was raid and broken up by deputy sheriffs on the orders of the local bankers. Constitution and other workers were shot in the back by the deputy sheriffs.

Simon Bass, John Livingston, and Sam Brown, militant union men, faced trials on a charge of rioting. They were arrested for reporting the raid on union meetings in union headquarters in Memphis.

The Central Defense Committee of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union has issued an appeal to help those cases. Communications should be addressed to Howard Krentz, Secretary of the Central Defense Committee, Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, Box 8118, Memphis, Tenn.

NAACP Leader Arrested In Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM—Dr. E. W. Tuggle, president of the Birmingham chapter of the NAACP, has been arrested here because of NAACP posters which were posted in barber shops and stores in the Negro section of the city. He was taken to the police station and held until the Recorder's Court.

The poster on display was marked "You Can't Win Alone!" It featured a picture of a Negro woman and urged Negroes to become members of the NAACP.

Is The South a Part of The United States?

NORTH

A DAY'S WORK

Smith is a steel worker in the North. Brown is a steel worker in the South. They do exactly the same work. Each makes the same amount of steel each day and the same amount of money. The only difference is that Smith makes $177.00 and Brown makes $6.93.

A DAY'S PAY

For his day's work in the steel mills of South Carolina, Brown gets paid 36 cents. On the other hand, Smith gets paid 88 cents.

SOUTH

A DAY'S WORK

Smith is a steel worker in the North. Brown is a steel worker in the South. They do exactly the same work. Each makes the same amount of steel each day and the same amount of money. The only difference is that Smith makes $177.00 and Brown makes $6.93.

A DAY'S PAY

For his day's work in the steel mills of South Carolina, Brown gets paid 36 cents. On the other hand, Smith gets paid 88 cents.

Government Facts Expose High Cost of Living in South

Facts given out by Labor Research Association on the Southern Differential prove that the story given out by Southern bosses is true. The working people of the South are just as good as the people of the North and are paid just as well.

Labor Research shows that what southern workers have is not a princely fare but a bare subsistence living. Their diet is mostly of bread, beef, pork, coffee, tea, and vegetables. Their clothing consists of cheaper and fewer clothes. Their homes consist of poorly paid workers of the North.

Government Figures show that the retail prices of foods in the south average higher than in the North. These comparisons were the only ones made and not in the rural comparisons of the South, where there are sections of the country that live on potatoes alone.

Company Store Prices

The workers in the South who are forced to trade in company stores are robbed twice over. In every store, Department of Labor statistics show that the workers pay more to the company stores than to independent stores. It is estimated that a worker pays an extra one-fourth as much again for food and supplies at company stores than at independent stores.

Many of the Southern workers have been told by their employers that company stores which sell them their food are cheaper. The workers cannot buy enough food at their own price to provide for fuel, clothing, and repairs for a week in advance. They must go to the company stores which give them credit but charge them more. They cannot pay these bills on time and are often forced to pay for future goods at a higher price.

Bessemer Central Body Endorses Ind. Committee

BESSEMER, Ala. (UNI) — The Bessemer Central Labor Union has gone on record endorsing the Committee for Industrial Organization. Only one vote was cast against it.

Sheriff Hands Down "Negro Over To Lynch Mob"

CUSSETA, Ga.—Philip Baker, a 25-year-old Negro worker, was lynched in a swamp near here on March 14. A rope had been pulled around his neck and his head was slashed with bullets.

Baker was accused of attacking two white women. The sheriff was carrying the Negro in a car from Macon to Columbus for this purpose. The Negro was being driven to avoid being shot.

Baker turned Baker over to a mob in a car given point in the wrecking of his car. The mob was made and one man overpowered him.

There was evidence that he was tried to present the charges in his head. He had the mob have his gun and ammunition and give him the keys to his car.

A W. B. Brown refused to identify the man who had two white women. The mob were lynched and was sentenced to death.

Diary of a Worker

SMITHFIELD, Va.—I work here for $3 a day. I eat 3 meals a day and spend 60 cents a day for clothes. I work 8 hours a day and get $1.50 a day. I have to work 6 days a week and get $9 a week.

Subscribe to The SOUTHERN WORKER

Write to Box 672, Birmingham, Ala.
Southern Listeners Hear Browder Call For Labor Party

BIRMINGHAM — When Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party in the U.S., addressed his fellow countrymen over the radio on the night of March 8, the people who waited in Birmingham to hear him were well rewarded.

Local station WBCR gave Browder's time to Lewey Robinson, red-baiting city commissioner.

Browder's speech, however, received the attention of a widely-acclaimed newspaper group. Some listeners managed to pick up the last portion of his speech over a Texas station.

Clearly outlining the failure of the government to provide food for the hungry and work for the unemployed while billions are spent for war purposes, Earl Browder eloquently presented the need for a Farmer-Labor Party and what it would mean to the American people.

Such a Farmer-Labor Party, Browder stated, would be powerful in the South. It would organize factories and put workers back to work at union wages; it would bring back the yellow dog contract and company union; it would help the workers to make our industries and agriculture 100 percent nationalized; it would establish a genuine old-age, unemployment, and social security insurance system.

WASHINGTON — Radio station WJZ, one of the most powerful in the country, has refused to permit Townsendites to broadcastanti-communist programs. The Committee to include all races of labor and the middle class not in agreement with Hearst and Wall Street.

Death of Chain Gang Victims Starts Inquiry

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Death of two more Negro convicts forced state and county officials to announce another "investigation" into chain gang conditions in North Carolina. The two men, John Head and John C. McCollum, were sliced and burned to death in the North Carolina State Chain Gang at the end of last month.

The state department of public instruction has been notified by the county school board that there will be an investigation into the matter.

The victims were two of the 200 convicts who were put to work on the chain gang at the end of last month.

Red Baiter Answered By Randolph

The attempt to drive the Negro Congress out of the White House was met last night by a 40 cents per copy.

The booklets were sent to the state capital and to the home of each of the Congressional Negroes.

"Since I can't deliver these booklets personally," said Browder, "the black cat will deliver them to the Negroes in the South."

The National Negro Congress, said Randolph, "is a Negro movement, projected to fight for Negroes in this section."

It naturally includes Negroes of all political faiths. It is non-partisan. Republicans, Socialists, Democrats.

"Once when we Negroes were fighting for the black cat, one of our leaders, who is now in prison, said that the black cat would keep the Negroes in the South."

The booklets were sent to the state capital and to the home of each of the Congressional Negroes.
From Churches

In a recent poll that Negroes in several southern states with public opinion that Negroes in the South are suffering from "unfair treatment of Negroes in the South." The poll was conducted by the Edgewood Presbyterian Church, which has a large number of Negroes on its rolls. The poll asked the question: "Do you believe that Negroes are being treated unfairly in the South?" The majority of the Negroes polled said they did not believe that they were being treated unfairly.

A SHARECROPPER'S SHACK

The sharecropper's shack is a common sight in the southern United States. These small, one-room structures are usually built of wood and are often located in rural areas. The sharecropper typically lives in the shack with his family, working the land that he is sharecropping.

WPA Convention Strikes Blow at Low Wage Scale

(Continued from Page One)

Hitler Moves to Start War in Europe

(Continued from Page One)

Klan Killers to Stand Trial in Tampa, Fla.

The first trial in Tampa was marked by jury selection. This week, 200 potential jurors were questioned by the Communist Party, who claimed they were biased against the Klan. The trial was scheduled to begin on Tuesday.

WPA Convention to Meet in Washington, D.C.

The WPA convention is scheduled to meet in Washington, D.C. on May 16th. The convention is expected to discuss issues such as the minimum wage, the maximum work week, and the provision of unemployment insurance.

The Soil Conservation Act has been passed. The New Deal is proving to be a success, and the government is working hard to continue its efforts to help the farmers of the country.

ENDS

The document contains articles about social and economic issues affecting the Southern United States during the time of the Great Depression and World War II. It discusses the treatment of Negroes in the South, the sharecropper's situation, the WPA convention, and the Soil Conservation Act.
Talmadge Faces Impeachment by Angry Georgians

ATLANTA—Having taken possession of the state treasury, Governor Eugene Talmadge, who made himself financial dictator of Georgia, has also taken his money out of state treasury funds. Governor Talmadge made himself financial dictator of Georgia at the end of the fiscal year, January 1, when he found himself without access to treasury funds. The legislature had finished its session, and he was only in office and had been running things by himself ever since. Throwing a bone to the bewildered and angry people of Georgia, Talmadge said he would not cut real estate tax this year. The labor unions, whose members are not represented in the legislature, have joined together to enjoin the governor from unlawfully discharging state funds.

Ga. Mill Workers Ordered Rehired

ATLANTA—Seven textile mill workers, blacklisted since the General Strike of 1934, have been rehired by the Southern Textile Corporation, according to the National Labor Relations Board. The seven workers, active union members, were discharged from the Red Mill, owned by the Southern Textile Corporation, before the strike. They have been rehired since the strike, and are now working there. The textile local in Atlanta, of which the seven mill workers were members, was formed during the strike and is still in existence. The textile local in Atlanta, which the seven mill workers were members of, was formed during the strike and is still in existence.

Workers Desert Company Unions

BIRMINGHAM—Here is how the employees' representation plan was put into effect around here. It went into effect in 1933, in the Alabama Division of the U.S. Steel Corporation. Each individual plant having its representatives in the steel works where a majority are not union members. But in the mines, the plan was a failure, because the UMWA was strong there.

The plan was outlined to the workers who were pretty skilled and never really knew all their rights to be known about. But during the 1933-1934 strike, the workers around here saw strikers that made them begin to think differently than they had been doing before.

They saw that Strike Can Win

They saw conditions made better for those men who had courage to strike and stay out. The results were that from 1934 to 1935 complaints of all descriptions were reduced—piece-work, long hours, low wages, sanitation and satisfactions. There were many workers nearing the pension age who were laid off. The workers fought for their rights through their representatives. They asked for vacations, better hours and for pensions for those qualified.

Now the workers have been waiting to get the things they had before, for their representation was beginning to see that the only way they were going to get anything is to make their unions strong enough to move to hold out on them. This is the way they are doing now. At the end of the year, the company unions are not staffing them.

Scottsboro Trial Set for April 1st

DECATUR, Ala.—The trial of Clarence Norris and his seven brethren, Scottsboro boys, will take place on April 17, in Decatur.

Norris will be tried on an indictment that carries the perjured testimony of Victoria Price.

No doubt as to having been set free by the railroad company. The railroad company made against Norris, Oscar Powell and Roy Wright, of "assault with intent to murder" Sheriff Sandlin has been cleared through the head on January 24.

WPA Children Go Hungry to School

BY A WOMAN WREKER

TARENT, Ala.—If I want to write of the conditions in the WPA workers' homes, I can't. On this one day, they were not here to see. I am a WPA worker's wife, and we have three children. I work a month, which is all we get to buy everything we need is not enough to keep us in the best necessities of life. To try to prepare good meals on such an income is heartbreaking. Write to your children, when you can't keep up the food, bread so often, I'm hungry for something real, it's hard on you. If you are a mother who cares for your children, they want their children to be strong and healthy.

I have to go to school without any breakfast part of the time. For lunch I eat only the thin soup the P. T. A. donates to the children's lines. The only real meal they get is in the morning, and in our house that is just means most of the time. I am a mother and my little boy said to me yesterday, "Mother, I've got so many boy clothes, we won't have any room for them." The children of the WPA workers are all like this. They have only a few dollars, and there is little meat and little clothes, their little bodies warm. At home, we have enough money to buy around the house warm. They go to school better, and they are better off in the streets.

We workers can't buy our clothes and pay house rent and water bills. One or all of the boys have to go out and work, if there are any clothes to be bought. We can't buy a meal or tea, and these kids of that have to be fed to growing children to make them strong.

Direct Relief Works

The people who get direct relief are now starting, because our relief system was all cut off. Some of these are families of 10 and 11 and more. They are getting a grocery order of $2.50 a week and forced to cash it at a DPW commissary, where they can't buy any more than this, half a dozen things. Any amount would get for them at another store.

A worker had to almost go down on his knees to get on direct relief. They asked him questions about everything from his birth to what he read. At the end of the day he was told he should have saved money when he had a job. I'd like to see a family man ask for direct relief. Things are getting so bad we all have to work.

(Continued On Page Seven)
Freedom of Soviet Union Is Described by American Writer

BY META BERGER

(Continued from Page Six)

The following paragraphs are reprinted from an article by Meta Berger in THE WOMAN TODAY.

The outstanding feature of the Soviet Union is the freedom of its citizens. It is a place where anyone can live their life as they choose, without fear of retribution or discrimination.

NEWS NOTES

S. T. F. U. Calls for
Arkansas Strike

MEMPHIS. - The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union has announced its plan to call a second strike in the eastern Arkansas cotton fields to force plantation owners to sign "fair contracts with its sharecropper members and stop evicting them by the hundreds."

The plan is to call the strike on April 15. The union has announced that it will begin the strike by taking over the cotton fields of several large plantation owners.

LABOR PROTESTS ATTACK ON UNIONS

MEMPHIS. - Eight hundred members have met here to demand the recall of the 15 men who were called "unfair" by the union. The men are said to be members of the Communist party.

The meeting, held in the Hall of Labor, was attended by representatives of the union and its sympathizers. The union's statement is that the men were called "unfair" by the union because they were members of the Communist party.

WORKER WHO SCABBED IN STRIKE WANTS CHANCE TO BUILD UNIONS (Continued From Page Six)

Workers are free to choose the work they wish to do. Hours are shortened in proportion to the difficulty of the labor. Women are paid the same wages as men for the same work. Any child is open to them. There are nearly as many women in the trade as men. They are recognized in the factories, engineers, mechanics, and the like.

Since Russian parents love their children, they are as other parents do. They believe that, based on their work, the family in Russia will endure as a happy, companionable voluntary association, subject to the wills of the beings for mutual satisfaction. It is an institution which impresses home-loving Americans may come to envy.

AMERICAN YOUTH ACT

AMERI-BENSON BILL

(Ex. R. 1912)

The necessary funds shall be taken from the U.S. Treasury.

1. The further funds required shall be raised from taxation, insurance, and corporations of incomes of $5,000 and over.

2. Especially in the South, where the highest percentage of children are employed in factories, the Board of Education shall have a more active function in promoting education. They must fight for the kind of bill which will not be a living thing.

3. Organization and individual workers should write letters to their Congressmen, demanding support of the American Youth Act, H. R. 10192.

Alabama Labor at The Cross-Roads

Continued from Page 28

The WPA Children Go Hungry To School (Continued From Page Six)

In the case of the WPA workers, who are on the payroll, the government is responsible. They are given the same wages as other people in the same work. Any child is open to them. There are nearly as many women in the trade as men. They are recognized in the factories, engineers, mechanics, and the like.

Since Russian parents love their children, they are as other parents do. They believe that, based on their work, the family in Russia will endure as a happy, companionable voluntary association, subject to the wills of the beings for mutual satisfaction. It is an institution which impresses home-loving Americans may come to envy.

Help Clear Up the Manna (Continued)

(UNUSUAL USE OF THE WORDS)

In the meantime, we must continue to work. Our work has been cut off since we started this project, and we cannot stop now.

WPA Children Go Hungry To School (Continued From Page Six)

In the case of the WPA workers, who are on the payroll, the government is responsible. They are given the same wages as other people in the same work. Any child is open to them. There are nearly as many women in the trade as men. They are recognized in the factories, engineers, mechanics, and the like.

Since Russian parents love their children, they are as other parents do. They believe that, based on their work, the family in Russia will endure as a happy, companionable voluntary association, subject to the wills of the beings for mutual satisfaction. It is an institution which impresses home-loving Americans may come to envy.

Help Clear Up the Manna (Continued)

(UNUSUAL USE OF THE WORDS)

In the meantime, we must continue to work. Our work has been cut off since we started this project, and we cannot stop now.

WPA Children Go Hungry To School (Continued From Page Six)

In the case of the WPA workers, who are on the payroll, the government is responsible. They are given the same wages as other people in the same work. Any child is open to them. There are nearly as many women in the trade as men. They are recognized in the factories, engineers, mechanics, and the like.

Since Russian parents love their children, they are as other parents do. They believe that, based on their work, the family in Russia will endure as a happy, companionable voluntary association, subject to the wills of the beings for mutual satisfaction. It is an institution which impresses home-loving Americans may come to envy.
Convict the Klan!

For the first time in the history of the South, the Ku Klux Klan has been brought to account for one of its murders. The trials of the Klan-cop shooters of Joseph Shomaker in Tampa, Florida, mark the beginning of a new day for Southern labor. The whole history of workers' struggles in the South, particularly in the cotton belt, has been filled with bloody outbreaks. The trials of the分开, 10, the Klan, such as the murder of Joseph Shomaker, a prominent labor leader, have paved the way for the beginning of a new era in the South.

Death Sentence.

While 80,000 people in Alabama are being allowed to starve to death, thousands of WPA workers are being sent to swell the ranks of the starving and 80,000 old people have had the miserable sight of their food taken away from them. The WPA workers on direct relief were not receiving enough to keep them alive, but now they have not even got bread. They are not getting the wages that the Federal government used to distribute. The WPA workers are being starved to death in Alabama, and therefore it is not easy to save them. People are not doing anything about their situation. The local city authorities turn a blind eye to their condition.

On April 1, more than 45,000 WPA workers are being thrown off the projects. These workers have suffered all winter trying to eke out a living for themselves and their families on the $12 a month. The city government is no longer able to support these workers. The wage scale that makes palliatives and other diseases of poverty rampant in the South.

What is the answer? Shall 150,000 people die because the state and national government is held fast in the bonds of big business and their little fat politicians? Shall the millions of workers of the South be left to starve? Will they permit the President to dictate the will of the people? Will they permit the President to control the state of the nation? Will they allow the President to dictate the will of the people?