

Thousands Will Demonstrate on May Day in South for First Time in History

Call for Unity of Negro and White Workers Against the Bosses

By TOM JOHNSON

For the first time in history thousands of Southern workers, Negroes and white, led by the Communist Party, will join their Northern fellow workers in revolutionary demonstrations against capitalism on May First. May Day in the South this year will be an historic event, signaling the growing solidarity of the American working class, North and South, white and black.

Terrible Conditions

In the South close to half a million textile workers—men, women and children—slave 10 and 12 hours a day for wages of \$4 to \$15 a week. Thousands of steel workers, Negro and white, are paid the starvation wages of 23 to 30 cents an hour. Foundry workers, miners, metal workers, toil long hours for \$10 to \$20 a week. And on the farms the poor tenants and share croppers are lucky if they see a \$20 bill in the course of a year, while the farm laborers put in 14 and 16 hours a day in the fields for as little as \$10 a month.

The conditions of the white workers are terrible. The conditions of the Negro worker are worse. Given the hardest, dirtiest work to do and paid the lowest wages in the shop, denied the right to vote in elections or to run for office, Jim Crowed wherever they go, the Negro workers are treated like dogs.

Every attempt of the workers to fight back against these conditions is met by the clubs of the police, the bayonets of the National Guard, long jail sentences, and by open fascist lynch terror. The battle at Gastonia, the Marion shootings, the murder of Ella May Wiggins, and now the attempt to burn Powers and Carr in the electric chair—such are the bloody landmarks of the class struggle in the South.

To make this united front of bosses, government, Ku Klux Klan, etc., against the working class complete, the American Federation of Labor steps forward as the loudest champion of lynch law for the workers of the whole filthy crew. In Atlanta officials of the A. F. of L. are playing the role of police informers and are testifying in court in an attempt to send an organizer of the National Textile Workers Union to jail. In Birmingham the Labor Advocate, official organ of the A. F. of L., screams in each issue for the blood of the Communist Party and Trade Union Unity League organizers in the South.

There is every reason to believe that the cowardly bombing of the home of the Birmingham organizer of the Metal Workers Industrial

League was the work of these fascist gangsters.

Despite all terrorism, despite lynch law, the workers of the South are on the march—mobilizing for struggle. On May Day they will give an impressive answer to the boss men of the South and their labor henchmen. In Chattanooga, in Birmingham, in Rome, Georgia, where the textile workers are preparing to strike; in Atlanta, where Powers and Carr stand in the shadow of the electric chair, hundreds and thousands of workers will leave the shops on May Day to join the thousands of unemployed workers in revolutionary demonstrations.

I.L.D. ISSUES STATEMENT ON POWERS AND CARR

"Workers! Death sentences are again being sought in the South against the organizers and spokesmen of the working class," states the International Labor Defense in a recent release.

"Capitalist class justice is seeking the lives of M. H. Powers, southern district organizer of the Communist Party, and of Joe Carr, organizer of the Young Communist League, because they dared to speak to the workers of Atlanta, Georgia, and to distribute working class literature for them to read."

The statement of the International Labor Defense points out that the law providing the death penalty for "inciting insurrection" under which Powers and Carr are charged is on passed in 1866, to aid the victory of northern "carpet bag" capitalist conquerors in the South, but it is now used by southern mill owners on militant workers.

The I.L.D. shows that this case is but the latest of a long series of attempts by terror to keep southern workers unorganized and in slavery: the lynching of Wilkins, the 117 years of sentences against the Gastonia defendants (now on appeal), the chain gang sentences in Winston-Salem and Chattanooga, the dynamiting of the home of Giglio, Metal Workers League organizer in Birmingham, the kidnapping of Anna Burlak and Doran, National Textile Workers organizers at Seneca, S. C., to mention only recent cases.

"Raise the demand again for 'no death sentences, no prison sentences, no sentences to the chain gangs!'" says the I.L.D. "Defeat the lynching, legal and extra-legal of the Negro and white workers!"