

## What Do We Stand For?

This is the first number of the Southern Worker, which is to be published regularly every week by the Communist Party of the U. S. A. The Southern Worker is the Communist paper for the South.

It is being published because the Southern workers and farmers need it and want it. The Southern Worker is the voice of the Negro and white workers and farmers of the South crying in united protest against the state of starvation, suffering and persecution to which they have been subjected by the white ruling class.

This is the first really workers' paper ever published below the Mason and Dixon line. It is the first Communist publication ever issued in the South. As such it will carry the Communist program to the white and black workers and farmers, pointing out the path to struggle, offering the militant and understanding leadership of the Communist party to the millions of Southern toilers.

The Southern Worker is neither a "white" paper, nor a "Negro" paper. It is a paper of and for both the white and black workers and farmers. It recognizes only one division, the bosses against the workers and the workers against the bosses. In this class struggle the Southern Worker stands always, without exception, unflinchingly, for the workers. It is a workers' paper.

While fighting constantly for all the immediate demands of the workers and farmers, fighting for better conditions, we realize that the only way the workers can fully obtain their demands is through a proletarian revolution. Only by following the example of the Russian workers and farmers, who overthrew tsardom and set up their own Soviet Government, can we finally obtain our liberation. This is the final aim which will be obtained by the organized might of the toiling masses.

Never before have the workers of the South needed their own paper as much as now.

Thousands upon thousands are unemployed. And yet not a cent from either the government or the employers for the unemployed workers, although billions are spent for warships and armaments. The workers and their families are left to starve. And they do starve to death, victims of that dread disease of the South, pellagra, the disease that comes when there is nothing to eat.

The share-croppers and tenant farmers, "poor white" and Negro, are in complete ruin. Many of the tenant farmers are losing their crops on the land because they cannot hang on long enough to harvest them. When a crop is finally raised the farmer finds that the prices have been kept so low by the agents of the buyers that he cannot get enough money not only to pay off his debts, but to keep going at all. Potatoes and cabbage is now the only food for many of the farmers in the South.

Those who are "lucky" enough to get a job get miserably low wages, work long hours at a tremendous speed, and are never sure how soon they will be fired.

The Negro worker is the most oppressed worker in the South. His lot is worse than any. Kept jim-crowed at every turn, working at lower wages than the white worker, subject to lynching and persecution, he is kept a virtual slave by the Southern white bosses.

The Southern Worker is here to voice the rebellion against these conditions. It is here to serve as the tribunal for the demands of the Southern toilers. It is here to give them Communist leadership in their struggle.

As a Communist paper it realizes that the only way by which the Southern toilers can be victorious in their struggle is through firm and solid organization in militant unions, and, politically, in the Communist Party.

The unions we speak of are not the jim-crowed, weak-kneed unions of the American Federation of Labor. The Southern workers have had their experience with the A. F. of L. Too often have they been betrayed and sold out as at Elizabethton, Tenn., at Marion, N. C., at Aniston, Ala. We stand openly and solidly against the treacherous, boss-controlled American Federation of Labor, which is closely allied with the K. K. K., supports bosses' candidates in the election campaign, cries for the blood of Communist organizers.

The unions we speak of are the militant, industrial unions of the Trade Union Unity League, which, like us, recognize only one division—the one between the bosses and the workers.

The Southern Worker stands unalterably for full social, economic and political equality for the Negro workers and farmers. This is one of its chief planks.

The Southern Worker draws the workers of the South closer to the workers of the North and all countries. It builds the strong bond of workers' solidarity. It brings to the Southern workers news of the Soviet Union, the only country in the world where the workers and farmers own and run the factories and farms and have their own government. It will make the Southern workers realize that they, too, must join in the defense of the Soviet Union, must defeat the war that is being planned against it by the bosses government.

The Southern Worker is published from Birmingham, Ala., despite the reign of terror directed by the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, and supported by the A. F. of L. and the K. K. K. against the organizers and members of the Communist Party and Trade Union Unity League. That is a sign of our strength. Persecutions cannot drive us away.

We are here and we will stay. Workers of the south, here is your paper. It is for all of us to write in. It is for all of us to spread and build. The Southern Worker will grow and expand with the struggles of the Southern workers.

Write for, spread and build the Southern Worker!