

Thousands Attend Annual Labor Day Celebration Here

Thousands of spectators lined the streets of Boonville and jammed the amphitheater at the fairgrounds Monday morning for the pretentious parade of the 17th annual Southern Indiana Labor Day Association's celebration and a large percentage of them remained at the fairground to hear the series of labor talks which constituted the afternoon program.

From the varied selection of the floats that featured the long parade, which required forty minutes to pass the reviewing stand, the beautiful entry of local 3437 of the Sunlight Coal Co. of Boonville, carried off top honors and a first-place award of \$75.

The Mabel Luther Beauty Shop float was selected as the outstanding entry of a business firm. It received an award of \$50.

Local 7693, Ditney Hill Mines, won \$50 for the union having the best display of dress uniforms. A \$25 award for the local of less than 100 members with best representation went to local 7661 of the Tecumseh Coal Company.

Thousands Watch

Despite the intense heat, the crowd that turned out for the parade and program was one of the largest that ever attended a Labor Day event here and officials expressed much gratification at the large turnout.

In his address to a packed grandstand Monday afternoon, Jas. H. Terry, international board member of the United Mine Workers of America, Birmingham, Ala., declared that when there is peace and harmony between the AFL and the CIO labor will progress faster and farther.

"Congressmen, senators and legislators say, 'when you boys get together on a program we will be for it' and they will when we agree." Pointing out difficulties which face labor leaders seeking legislation when the two unions disagree, Terry also asserted that the day would come when there will be harmony between the two, and that all union men should hope and work for it.

Defending charges of union labor disloyalty to the nation, Terry said it would be union labor which would build the materials of war and labor men who would man it in the field. "The workers have always fought the wars and will fight the next one if we get in it," he said.

"Get in Politics"

Urging labor union men to get into politics in order to obtain objectives, he said that that was the only way to achieve their goal.

Larry A. Williams, head of the sales department of the state farm bureau, spoke during the morning program, urging farmers and labor to cooperate for the good of both.

Prefacing his speech by saying that he had always wanted to speak on a Labor Day program in order to urge these things, Williams cited the farm parity bill being passed by a 75 to 2 vote in the senate as to what can be accomplished when organized agriculture and organized labor work together.

Labor and farmers have three common enemies, he asserted. He listed these as: 1. The prejudiced press; 2. Members in their own ranks who refuse to cooperate in a progressive program; 3. Ignorance on the part of laborers and farmers who haven't enough sense to see what can be gained through organization. Labor and farm battles have been parallel, with labor showing the way to organized farmers, he said.

In a brief address Warrick Circuit Judge J. Harold Hendrickson urged labor to check up on the benefits received under the American democracy, compared with that under totalitarian forms of government.

Wars Preserve Democracy

While the American form of government is not perfect and never will be, it still grants full use of the fundamental freedoms. While America has never been a warlike nation, it may enter this war, but it will be for the same reason it has entered all wars, to preserve the American democracy. He urged that labor appreciate its vital part in the present crisis, and exerts its all to preserve the union.

Labor's aid in enactment of the Townsend national recovery plan, with pensions for all workers over 50 years of age, was asked by B. J. Brown, national representative in charge of the Indiana Townsend movement. He explained in detail how he thought the plan would work out, if it became a law.

The program at the fairgrounds was opened by a welcome address by Mayor Lafayette Ohaver, following a parade through the downtown section.

Louis Austin, president of District 11, United Mine Workers, presided at the fairgrounds program, with H. A. Rottger of Spurgeon, being general chairman of the program.

Preceding the Labor Day program was the annual sacred service, Sunday afternoon, at which Rev. Tamas Taylor of the Garvinwood church of Evansville, spoke on "Building a Better World." Paul Hall of Boonville gave the opening prayer and benediction.

Quartets Sing

Music for the service was furnished by the Garvinwood Quartet, Jean McSwane, Noma Wade, Jas. Moss and Leah Moss; the Todrank quartet of Holland and the Hetzel Quartet of Chandler, consisting of William, Emerson, and Earl Hetzel and Waldo Skelton, accompanied by Mrs. Haskell Chapman.

The Prairie Drifters, a local 5-piece band, was the winner of the fifteen-act amateur contest Sunday evening. Members of the group were Joe Day, Vernie Polk, Orval Collins, Parvin Day and Hubert Crow. They were given a cash award.