

SOLIDARITY—NORTH AND SOUTH

By JIM ALLEN.

(Editor, Southern Worker.)

THE Southern Worker, published by the Communist Party at Birmingham, Ala., has appeared regularly every week for the past six months. It has found its way into the most remote sections of the South. While the main body of its readers consist of workers at Birmingham, Chattanooga, Charlotte, Atlanta, Elizabethton, and the Gulf ports, it has also followed the migrating southern worker into many isolated country towns, into the most brutal and reactionary plantation sections.

Slowly, but surely, it is being taken to the heart of the southern proletariat and farm tenantry. Like nowhere else in the country has the crisis ravaged the southern workers and poor farmers. In the South, more than anywhere else in the country, have spontaneous hunger marches, demonstrations and struggles of workers and farmers taken place. Altho it is only a six-months infant, the Southern Worker has been a factor in these struggles. It has found its way to mill towns where workers are on the point of raiding company commissaries, to the country towns where the farmers are taking food practically at the point of their guns.

The trouble is that the Southern Worker has not yet played an important enough role in the organization and development of these struggles. It is not bringing the Communist program of organization and struggle fast enough and widely enough to the seething workers and farmers of the South. One of the chief reasons is that our paper has been handicapped for lack of funds. We have been forced to print a very restricted number of copies every week because we could not pay for more. For the same reason our paper is restricted to only four pages in which must be crowded all the news and articles so important to the southern workers. And even this restricted paper is now being threatened with temporary suspension.

The southern workers are extremely poor. The crisis found them at a much lower standard of living than the workers in the North. Today, even 25 cents for a 3 months' subscription to the paper is beyond many workers' reach. To many the price of a single copy is a problem. They cannot dig into empty pockets, which are not backed by a single penny of bank savings, to keep the Southern Worker going. Just as it was the northern workers who raised the money to start the Southern Worker it must now also be their task, together with the southern workers, to keep the paper going. It will be an expression of working class solidarity, that the southern workers will never forget.
