

## The BADIN BULLETIN

Devoted to the interests of the employees of  
the Tallahassee Power Company, and the pleasure  
and profit of all people of Badin.

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### Work and Save

Recently I read some prices which were copied from an old New England store-keeper's accounts for the year 1824. Eggs were ten cents per dozen; a pair of Morocco shoes was eighty-four cents; goose was four cents per pound; and other things about in proportion. In 1915, I have a very definite recollection of the following prices: Eggs, twenty cents per dozen; shoes, good quality, four dollars; steak, twenty cents per pound. In 1919, prices for the same articles would be as follows: Eggs, sixty cents; shoes, eight dollars; steak, forty-five cents. These are comparisons in our own country, but are little different than other countries would show. What is the cause for the great price increases? Some people say it is because we now have in circulation all over the world approximately two dollars where we had one dollar before the war, due to the inflation of our currency. Governments found it necessary to issue more paper money for the gold and silver which they held as security, altho the United States is better off in this respect than other countries, as is evidenced by the exchange. Others say that it is because

so many people have been engaged in the destructive work of war, and that there is less production, and therefore a lower supply with a higher demand, which always means high prices. Still others say that it is due to the taxes which have been brought on by the war; and still others claim that it is due to the fact that a majority of the people look on a dollar as having so much purchasing power as measured in pre-war prices, and have not yet adjusted themselves to the present scale of prices, so that they feel better off than they really are. They are making more money, and feel that they should be able to live better, and because they cannot are kicking at the price of everything.

When we get right down to it, the basis of the cost of almost everything we buy is the cost of a day's work. Some people argue that a bushel of wheat is the basis; but after all it takes a certain number of days' work to produce a bushel of wheat; so that labor finally becomes the basis of all prices. If we could but know what wages were paid in 1824, we would probably find that for the money received for a day's work in that period a man could buy just about what he buys now—perhaps a little less. It is surely true that a man can buy very little more with his wages now than he did in 1915, altho his wages are considerably higher. We have got to quit thinking in terms of pre-war prices, or else have to be willing to go back to pre-war wages.

As we look back over history, we have to admit that for a day's wages now we do receive more than we used to receive, for it is possible now to get a lot of the so-called modern conveniences which were luxuries just a few years ago. I refer to such things as running water, sewerage systems, electric lights, telephones, etc.; so that while in 1824 a man might have been able to buy as many groceries with a day's pay as he does now he was not enjoying many of the conveniences which we now enjoy. It seems to me that undoubtedly all of the causes above mentioned, and perhaps others, have united to produce the present conditions. There is no doubt, however, that in order to keep from going from bad to worse we will have to increase production, and adjust ourselves to the present price idea. Unless we can keep up an increased production, things are going to become scarcer, and naturally the prices are going to become higher. Unless we forget pre-war prices, and measure our present incomes by present prices, we

are tending to spend faster than we earn which always spells "Hard Times."

I have intentionally failed to mention the profiteer as the cause of high prices because I believe in the honesty of the majority of the merchants in this country, and believe that the cases of profiteering form a very small percentage of the whole, and are much over-advertised.

In times such as these, things can adjust themselves in two ways—either the people can be enlightened enough to see the direction in which they are going, and speed up production and cut expenditures; or they can go on in the same direction until something breaks and we have a panic and hard times. That is the natural result, and has the effect of forcing things to adjust themselves; but while the panic is on they are bound to be suffering. It is a hard way to learn a lesson; just as it is hard for baby to learn that a stove is hot by getting burned. Baby could have been told that he would be burned, and could have saved himself from the suffering, but lessons are seldom learned that way. We are now told that we can save ourselves from industrial depression and hard times by producing and saving; and just as surely as we fail to heed the advice we will suffer.

—R. E. PARKS

### Home Ownership

What a State we of North Carolina would have if every family owned its own home! What a city Charlotte would be if every family here owned its home! Of course such an ideal state will never be attained, for various reasons. But the fact should ever be kept in mind that the greater the home-owning percentage of the population of any community or State, the higher the standards of citizenship of that community or State. No matter how good a citizen a man may be, he can be made a better citizen by coming into possession of a home of his own. It matters little how sorry a citizen a man may be, he is likely to be a better citizen if he comes into ownership of his home. As a general proposition, the man who owns the roof under which he and his family sleep, and the ground on which the house stands, has a deeper and more vital interest in the welfare of his community and State than the man who has not so much at stake. Discussing the subject of home ownership.

*The Hickory Record* says:

"We would like to see a home-owning drive started in every community in North Carolina. That would be a campaign