

THE MEBANE LEADER.

And Right The Day Must Win, To Doubt Would be Disloyalty To Falter Would be Sin.'

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

NATION'S LABOR PROBLEM

OVER A MILLION AND A HALF WOMEN WORK AS FARM HANDS IN THE UNITED STATES.

By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

Our government never faced so tremendous a problem as that now lying dormant at the doors of congress and the legislatures, and which, when aroused, will shake this nation from center to circumference, and make civilization hide its face in shame. That problem is—women in the field.

The last federal census reports show we now have 1,514,000 women working in the field, most of them south of the Mason and Dixon line. There were approximately a million negro slaves working in the fields when liberated by the emancipation proclamation. We have freed our slaves and our women have taken their places in bondage. We have broken the shackles of the negroes and welded them upon our daughters.

The Chain-Gang of Civilization.
A million women in bondage in the southern fields form the chain-gang of civilization—the industrial tragedy of the age. There is no overseer quite so cruel as that of unrestrained greed, no whip that stings like the lash of suborned destiny, and no auctioneer's block quite so revolting as that of organized avarice.

The president of the United States was recently lauded by the press, and very properly so, for suggesting mediation between the engineers and railroad managers in adjusting their schedule of time and pay. The engineers threatened to strike if their wages were not increased from approximately ten to eleven dollars per day and service reduced from ten to eight hours and a similar readjustment of the overtime schedule. Our women are working in the field, many of them barefooted, for less than 50 cents per day, and their schedule is the rising sun and the evening star, and after the day's work is over they milk the cows, slop the hogs and rock the baby to sleep. Is anyone mediating over their problems, and to whom shall they threaten a strike?

Congress has listened approvingly to those who toil at the forge and behind the counter, and many of our statesmen have smiled at the threats and have fanned the flame of unrest among industrial laborers. But women are as surely the final victims of industrial warfare as they are the burden-bearers in the war between nations, and those who arbitrate and mediate the differences between capital and labor should not forget that when the expenses of any industry are unnecessarily increased, society foots the bill by drafting a new consignment of women from the home to the field. Pinch no Crumb From Women's Crust of Bread.

No financial award can be made without someone footing the bill, and we commend to those who accept the responsibility of the distribution of industrial justice, the still small voice of the woman in the field as she pleads for mercy, and we beg that they pinch no crumb from her crust of bread or put another patch upon her ragged garments.

We beg that they listen to the scream of horror from the eagle on every American dollar that is wrung from the brow of toiling women and hear the Goddess of Justice hiss at a verdict that increases the want of woman to satisfy the greed of man.

The women behind the counter and in the factory cry aloud for sympathy and the press thunders out in their defense and the pulpit pleads for mercy, but how about the woman in the field? Will not these powerful exponents of human rights turn their talent, energies and influence to her relief? Will the Goddess of Liberty enthroned at Washington hold the caloused hand and soothe the feverish brow of her sex who sows and reaps the nation's harvest or will she permit the male of the species to shove women—weak and weary—from the bread-line of industry to the back alleys of poverty?

Women and Children First.
The census enumerators tell us that of the 1,514,000 women who work in the fields as farm hands 409,000 are sixteen years of age and under. What is the final destiny of a nation whose future mothers spend their girlhood days behind the plow, pitching hay and hauling manure, and what is to become of womanly culture and refinement that grace the home, charm society and enthrone man to leap to glory in

noble achievements if our daughters are raised in the society of the ox and the companionship of the plow?

In that strata between the ages of sixteen and forty-five are 950,000 women working as farm hands and many of them with suckling babes tugging at their breasts, as drenched in perspiration, they wield the scythe

and guide the plow. What is to become of that nation where poverty breaks the crowns of the queens of the home; despair hurls a mother's love from its throne and hunger drives innocent children from the schoolroom to the hoe?

The census bureau shows that 155,000 of these women are forty-five years of age and over. There is no more pitiful sight in civilization than these saintly mothers of Israel stooped with age, drudging in the field from sun until sun and at night drenching their dingy pillows with the tears of despair as their aching hearts take it all to God in prayer. Civilization strikes them a blow when it should give them a crown, and their only friend is he who broke bread with beggars and said: "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Oh, America! The land of the free and the home of the brave, the world's custodian of chivalry, the champion of human rights and the defender of the oppressed—shall we permit our maidens fair to be torn from the hearthstone by the ruthless hand of destiny and chained to the plow? Shall we permit our faithful wives, whom we covenanted with God to cherish and protect, to be hurled from the home to the harvest field, and our mothers dear to be driven from the old arm chair to the cotton patch?

In rescuing our citizens from the forces of civilization, can we not apply to our fair Dixieland the rule of the sea—"women and children first?"

There must be a readjustment of the wage scale of industry so that the women can be taken from the field or given a reasonable wage for her services. Perhaps the issue has never been fairly raised, but the Farmers' Union, with a membership of ten million, puts its organized forces squarely behind the issue and we now enter upon the docket of civilization the case of "The Woman in the Field" and demand an immediate trial.

RAILROADS APPEAL TO PRESIDENT

The Common Carriers Ask for Relief—President Wilson Directs Attention of Public to Their Needs.

The committee of railroad executives, headed by Mr. Frank Trumbull, representing thirty-five of the leading railroad systems of the nation, recently presented to President Wilson a memorandum briefly reviewing the difficulties now confronting the railroads of the country and asking for the cooperation of the governmental authorities and the public in supporting railroad credits and recognizing an emergency which requires that the railroads be given additional revenues.

The memorandum recites that the European war has resulted in general depression of business on the American continent and in the dislocation of credits at home and abroad. With revenues decreasing and interest rates increasing the transportation systems of the country face a most serious crisis and the memorandum is a strong presentation of the candle burning at both ends and the perils that must ultimately attend such a conflagration when the flames meet is apparent to all. In their general discussion the railroad representatives say in part: "By reason of legislation and regulation by the federal government and the forty-eight states acting independently of each other, as well as through the action of a strong public opinion, railroad expenses in recent years have vastly increased. No criticism is here made of the general theory of governmental regulation, but on the other hand, no ingenuity can relieve the carriers of expenses created thereby."

President Wilson, in transmitting the memorandum of the railroad presidents to the public, characterizes it as "a lucid statement of plain truth." The president recognizing the emergency as extraordinary, continuing, said in part: "You ask me to call the attention of the country to the imperative need that railway credits be sustained and the railroads helped in every possible way, whether by private co-operative effort or by the action, wherever feasible of governmental agencies, and I am glad to do so because I think the need very real."

The conference was certainly a fortunate one for the nation and the president is to be congratulated for opening the gate to a new world of effort in which everyone may cooperate. There are many important problems in our complex civilization that will yield to co-operation which will not lend themselves to arbitrary rulings of commissions and financing railroads is one of them. The man with the money is a factor that cannot be eliminated from any business transaction and the public is an interested party that should always be consulted and happily the president has invited all to participate in the solution of our railroad problems.

MR. ROBERT D. WHITE DIES AT HIS HOME.

Passes Away After Suffering Stroke of Paralysis on Street a Week Ago. Funeral and Interment Today.

Mr. Robert D. White, for the past several years secretary of the water, light and power commission of the city, passed away at his home in East Burlington Tuesday morning about 2 o'clock after suffering from a stroke of paralysis which befell him while on the street Monday, December 21. He left a wife and four sons to mourn his departure. Mr. White was 40 years old.

Mr. White was the son of the late Capt. J. I. White, for years clerk of the court for the county, and was well known all over the county, being identified with its industrial life by his connection with the textile industries. For some years he was book-keeper for the Carolina cotton mill, which brought him into prominence and made for him a place with the Mount Pleasant Manufacturing Company, at Limestone, which position he filled acceptably until about 5 years ago when he resigned his position there to identify himself with the Aurora cotton at this place. It was while with the Aurora mill that his health gave way and he was forced to resign his position there. Later he became an employe of the city in the capacity secretary of the water, light and power commission, which position he filled at the time of his death.

Mr. White was a man who had friends by the hundreds. His personality drew him acquaintances, and acquaintanceship soon ripened into friendship, a friendship which lasted. He was a friend to everybody and bore no malice toward any one. Enemies he had not, for his was a nature that did not make them rather it made for him friends and many there be in Burlington and elsewhere who will drop a tear in silence at his passing away.

The funeral will be conducted from his residence at 2 o'clock this afternoon by Rev. Donald McIver, his pastor and the interment will be in Pine Hill cemetery.

A Sad Accident
As we were going to press we received the news of the sad accident of Mrs. R. V. James, Mrs. L. S. Straughan's mother falling and breaking her hip, just last summer she fell and broke her arm. Mrs. James is suffering very much pain.

Another hobo said he had heard of her at El Paso. "I think she's a Chicago girl, 'cause she's always talking about the big stores there, and the streets. I'll tell you what I think; she's one of them writing women, 'trying to get something unusual to write about. She don't talk that way, though, except once in a while when she seems to be forgetting, then she says fine words. Once she busted this on us—'Do you men actually like this environment?' Gee, but that was some talk for a hobo."

But the tramps say she packs her blankets and can beg a handout just as well as the best of them.

Virginia Pilot.

Victim of Blackmail

Mr. Samuel G. Morgan, cashier of the Commercial and Farmers Bank was the victim of blackmail about two weeks ago, when a negro Lewis Fuller, wrote Mr. Morgan demanding money which the negro claimed Mr. Morgan owed him for rents. The letter bore the purport that it was written by an insane man. The negro claimed that he owned a good many of the stores, warehouses telephone system and other establishments in Mebane, and that Mr. Morgan had been collecting the rents and had not turned them over to him. He also said that in the event Mr. Morgan did not turn over these rents immediately he would kill him. The thing came to a climax last Monday morning when the African went to the bank of which Mr. Morgan is the cashier, and after acting in a very suspicious manner, discovered that Mr. Morgan was armed and he hastily retreated. From information gathered by us it seems that the negro carried his gun with him, but left it standing on the outside of the bank. Dr. Swain was in the bank at the time and observing the apparent danger the cashier was being subjected, at once swore out a warrant and had the negro placed in custody. He was later tried by Esq. Shaw who turned him over to High Sheriff Cook with the recommendation that he be sent to the insane asylum at Goldsboro at once. Mr. Morgan did not at any time entertain any serious harm, yet it is perfectly natural that he could not help but live in a degree of some mental anxiety.

QUEEN OF HOBOES DAINY AND SLENDOR

Wins Respect Of The Road In Her Wanderings

The queen of the hoboes, as a boy, is being sought by the officers of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties. She is described as a dainty, slender figure, with shining locks, which she keeps pinned up under a slouch hat. Who she is one of the mysteries of the hunt.

The first knowledge of her presence among the hobo camps was taken to the officers by an auto party. The occupants of the machine had been startled by coming upon her suddenly at Rincon. She was standing erect in a circle of hardened vagrants combing her hair. Her tough companions were lounging about watching the deft movements of her hands, and seemingly doing homage as to a queen.

Seeing herself discovered by the auto party the girl quickly wrapped a ragged coat about her head. The auto dashed for Ventura and notified the officers. A hurried raid was made on the camp, but the girl had fled.

All the camps along the Ventura river and up the Rincon were searched. Evidence was found that the girl had been in several of the camps. Vagrants accosted admitted her presence, but pretended to know nothing of her.

"She just drifted into camp when we was at Fernando," said one, "and she hung around there for a night or two, and showed up here two nights ago, say, but there ain't no bo can say nothing onery to her, though, or we'd kill him, that we would."

Another hobo said he had heard of her at El Paso. "I think she's a Chicago girl, 'cause she's always talking about the big stores there, and the streets. I'll tell you what I think; she's one of them writing women, 'trying to get something unusual to write about. She don't talk that way, though, except once in a while when she seems to be forgetting, then she says fine words. Once she busted this on us—'Do you men actually like this environment?' Gee, but that was some talk for a hobo."

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Virginia Pilot.

Your Parents' Diplomas.
Although your parents may have no college diplomas, remember that they are graduates of the school of experience, in which you are the merest freshman.—Youth's Companion.

CONGRESS REASSEMBLED TUESDAY

It is Not Thought That Much Will be Accomplished Until After the New Year

Congress reassembled Tuesday after one of the shortest holiday recesses in history. It is not likely that much will be accomplished until after the beginning of the new year, but the leaders are anxious to take advantage of every working day in order to complete the strenuous program. The immigration bill is the unfinished business before the Senate, but it is very probable it will be sidetracked by the appropriation bills, some of which are now ready for consideration in the upper House. Senator Lewis of Illinois is leading the fight against the bill in its present form and has announced that he will introduce an amendment at the proper time to eliminate the literacy test. If he is successful it will probably result in the entire bill. As was generatively predicted, the prohibition resolution was defeated in the House. Supporters of that measure, however, was well pleased with the showing made. Though they failed to command the necessary two-third vote demanded by the Constitution the vote showed a majority of eight in favor of the resolution. Representative Hobson announced that he would immediately offer another amendment, slightly different from the one just defeated. It will be impossible to bring it up for action in the present session but it gives him an opportunity to continue the fight.

They failed to reach the woman suffrage amendment before the Holidays and it is likely its consideration at an early date will see a reenactment of the lively scenes during the discussion of the prohibition amendment. When the appropriation bills for the army and navy are taken up in the House they will undoubtedly provoke a great deal of discussion. Proposals for substantial increases in both branches and the strengthening of the national defenses have been exploited throughout the present session and will give rise to spirited debate when they reach the floor. The Government ship purchase bill is before the Senate and its friends will endeavor to bring it up for action at the first opportunity.

Although it is rather early to make predictions as to candidates in 1916, many seem to think that two members of the present Cabinet will be contestants for seats in the Senate. Postmaster General Burleson is regarded as a likely candidate for the seat of Senator Culberson of Texas. New Jersey Democrats are favoring Secretary Garrison to succeed Senator Martine. His record in the present Administration would make him a valuable man in the Senate. The attack against the President and the effects of his policies, launched by Governor Colquitt of Texas has created an unusual amount of interest. Coming as it does from leading Democratic governor it is likely to foreshadow the growth of serious opposition. Several Democrats are somewhat dis-

pleased because of the President's attitude on certain measures and his failure to always meet them in "common counsel," but the majority are of the opinion that the President's position will be greatly strengthened when normal business conditions prevail.

The Senate Committee on the Philippines will make an investigation into the reported uprisings in the Islands. Action on the Jones bill, already passed by the House and pending in the Senate, granting a greater degree of liberty and looking to the ultimate independence of the Islands, will probably be influenced by these reports and it is the desire of the committee to discover the real facts. Some have advanced the opinion that the revolt was a staged affair by the opponents of greater freedom for the Islands.

When the new Federal Trade Commission is organized it will find that the Bureau of Corporations, whose work it will take over, has much valuable data which will be of great service. The Bureau has made an exhaustive study of the industrial field and classified the various corporations coming under its jurisdiction. They are now engaged in making a complete summary of their eleven years work. These reports will list the principle corporations, private and public, and give data as to the processes of manufacture, organization and financial control.

President Wilson celebrated his fifty-eighth birthday on Monday, the 28th. No special observance was held at the White House but he spent the day quietly with his family. Congratulatory messages from all over the country poured into the Executive offices throughout the day.

Washington enjoyed the full delights of a white Christmas. The great community Christmas tree, illuminated by hundreds of lights was placed in front of the Capitol and thousands enjoyed the exercises held and program rendered by the Marine Band on Christmas Eve.

H. E. Rickard.

Thursday Afternoon Club

The Thursday Afternoon Club met with Mrs. W. W. Corbett at her home Woody Crest.

Rook and Bridge were played after which delicious refreshments were served. Members present were as follows: Mesdames Charles Lasley, Chas. Dillard, Arthur White, Joe Vincent, and Felix Graves. Misses Lois Ham, Dilla Lilly and Alice Fowler. Guest Mesdames Ralph Vincent, and Gailaspie, Misses Jennie Lasley and Mary Hooker.

Miss Lasley Entertained.

Miss Jennie Lasley entertained a number of her friends on Wednesday evening at her home on 5th street.

Rook and Auction Bridge were played after which cream and cake were served. A most delightful evening was lead by those present who were as follows:

Misses Lue Mebane, Mary Hooker, Lois Ham, Mesdames Charles Lasley, Gallas Pie, and W. W. Corbett, Messrs J. S. Clarke, W. W. Corbett, I. D. Ham, Joe Hurdle, Sam Scott and Geo. Holt.

Overcoat Found

The overcoat which was advertised in last weeks paper has been found, owner can get same by calling at Leader Office.