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The Mountain City News.

VOL. XL

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1918.

NO. 28

PLAN TO CHECK RIVAL BIDDING FOR LABORERS

Farmers Might Lose Much of Crop if War Industries Continued Enticements.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Measures to check competition for labor between the war industries and government agencies have been taken by the department of labor. This was announced today after a delegation of Virginia truck growers, headed by Representative Holland, had called on Assistant Secretary Port with a protest that the farmers would lose a million bushels of potatoes this year if the enticement of farm laborers by industrial concerns were permitted to continue.

The delegation was told that the department already had directed the cancellation of extravagant advertisements for men, which are considered detrimental to the government's war program. Industrial plants are being assured that all real labor needs will be met by the United States employment service, in whose hands the distribution of the available labor supply has been placed by Secretary Wilson.

Mobilization of shipyard workers, a department statement tonight said, had been placed entirely in the hands of the employment service by the shipping board. Independent recruiting by the board and the individual plants will be discontinued to permit a concentration of efforts during a two-weeks' campaign beginning next Monday, which will culminate in a national shipbuilders' registration week February 11.

Confusion and suffering are said to have resulted from careless statements as to shipyard needs, attracting many men to places where an ample supply of workers already was gathered.

"Published statements of the number of men who will be wanted have been misinterpreted," said the statement, "as meaning that great numbers are wanted now whereas they are wanted only in limited quantities and of particular types at any one time. Men should stick to their jobs until the department tells them that there is a shipbuilding position waiting and what the wages and housing conditions are.

"By registering in the public service reserve, men can be assured that they will be told when they will be wanted. The reserve now is listing men willing to serve on railroads, in munition plants and in the divisions of the army which require skilled mechanics.

"Employers of labor, even in so-called unessential industries, will be helped by the success of the registration, which will make it possible for the department of labor to make a fair distribution of all calls for men and to minimize and equalize any drain on industry which results from unregulated competition for men between war industries and different branches of the government. Labor is in entire sympathy with the creation of this reserve, because it will help to prevent the great hardships which will fall upon workmen by having no certain way of knowing whether or whether there may be employment for them."

It was estimated that from now until next August 400,000 men will be needed in shipbuilding, this number including the labor turnover. Many times this number of voluntary workers is expected to be enrolled during registration week.

An appeal to President Wilson to speed up governmental machinery in aid of production so as to relieve the anxiety of farmers as to labor supply credit facilities and seed shortage was made today in a memorial from the federal board of farm organizations in behalf of more than 2,000,000 organized farmers. The board asked for a reply February 6, when representatives of the seven national farm organizations comprising the board, together

with a number of state masters of the Grange and heads of the Society of Equity and other bodies will seek an audience with the President to discuss constructive plans. The memorial said:

"If food is to win the war, as we are assured on every side, the farmers of America must produce more food in 1918 than they did in 1917. But unless present conditions are radically changed, increased crops next year are impossible. Under existing conditions we cannot equal the production of 1917, much less surpass it, and this for reasons over which the farmers have no control.

"The chief causes which will inevitably bring about a smaller crop next year unless promptly removed by national action, are six in number; the shortage of farm labor, shortage of seed, prices often below the cost of production, lack of reasonable credit, exclusion of the farmer from his right and necessary share in the conduct of the war, and deep-seated doubt whether he can raise the increased crops demanded of him and still support his family and pay his debts.

"Many thousands of acres were left unharvested last fall because the necessary hands had left the farms. Already great numbers of farms near excellent markets lie idle for lack of a living return. Millions of acres will be wholly or partly idle next summer because the money to buy seed and subsistence will be lacking. Many of the farms thus affected are tenants whom misfortune will compel to abandon the farm.

"So far as we have learned there is not a single genuine farmer representative of the organized farmers of America, in any position of authority in the food administration, the advisory council of national defense, or any of the other special boards charged with the conduct of the war.

"Comparing their own small earnings with the huge war profits they see on every hand, the farmers have lost confidence that the government understands the needs and difficulties of the farmer. Unless that confidence can be restored, it is useless to hope that we can maintain the food production of last year, and meaningless to talk of increasing it."

Wage Counter Propaganda Among the Russian People.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Plans for conducting a propaganda in Russia to acquaint the people there with the friendship of this country and prevent them from falling under German influence have been launched here by members of Congress and others, acting independently of the government but, it is under stood, with its approval.

As part of the plan, it was learned tonight, labor organizations in many parts of the country are preparing to hold meetings on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, at which speeches will be made and resolutions adopted, expressing sympathy with the cause of the Russian workingmen and pledge him support. Copies of these resolutions and speeches will be sent to Russia and given the widest possible circulation.

A party of representatives and senators headed by Senator Owen recently visited the White House and outlined plans for the propaganda campaign to the President.

War Demand on Cotton.

It takes a half bale of cotton to make the powder for one discharge of a twelve inch gun.

A machine gun uses up a bale of cotton every three minutes.

In the naval battle off Jutland more than ten bales a minute were consumed by each active warship engaged.

It takes 20,000 bales a year to provide absorbent cotton for the wounded in the hospital camps of the Allies.

"One change of clothing for all the troops now engaged in the war represents more than a million bales.—Exchange.

FIRST MONTH OF 1918 HARD ON THE BRITISH

Nation has now, However, Adopted the Watchword, We Must Go on or go Under.

London Jan. 20.—The first month of 1918 has been one of the most trying of the whole war for the British people. Now the nation seems to have weathered its doubts and disagreements and accepted the watchword "we must go on or go under."

The labor unions met the demand upon them for more men in khaki with a critical and doubtful spirit; they insisted upon knowing the government's exact war program and were inclined to believe that peace negotiations were possible. These questions have been threshed out with the government fully and freely with straight talking on both sides, and the government seems to have carried the day.

This result is due principally to Premier Lloyd George, and it strengthens his position and authority for the time being. The premier's resourcefulness was never disturbed by the fusillade of questions from the laborites, some of them out and out pacifists, at the Friday conference.

Probably the most effective statement Mr. Lloyd George made was that the government was ready to go into a peace conference whenever the Germans showed and disposition to negotiate on equitable terms. But he saw no disposition of that kind now. There is still sharp criticism of the government among the masses, the chief ground being the food problem. While apparently there are enough supplies in the country to maintain the population in comfort, the contemplated business of distribution has not been successfully met.

A general election is expected as soon as a new register of voters can be made. Eight million new voters, 6,000,000 of whom are women, will go on the rolls under the reform bill which the house of lords now is debating. The predictions are that the next government will be a labor-liberal coalition, with the labor party holding the largest number of seats of any party in the house of commons and the strongest position in the cabinet.

The labor party's conference at Nottingham this week will be one of the most important in its history. Proposals for a new constitution will be considered, which will admit all brain workers to the party's ranks on an equality with the trade unionists. This is called the "hand and brain" movement, and the laborites expect that it will make their organization the largest and strongest political body in the kingdom.

The party's policy for reconstruction after the war will be framed. The proposals to be submitted include a national wage minimum, democratic control of industry, revolution of national finance and the use of private surplus wealth for the common good. Some of the sub-heads in this program are: Employment for all; organization of the demobilized armies; insurance against unemployment; nationalization of land, railways, mines and electric power steeply graduated taxation on incomes and wealth.

Soldier at Camp Greene Found Dead by a Creek

Charlotte, Jan. 19.—Earl Myers, a Baltimore soldier at Camp Greene, was found dead this afternoon at 5 o'clock on the bank of Irwin creek by a cultivator under the Southern railway trestle. He was a member of company A, machine gun and was found by boys looking for cows in a pasture. Two theories are advanced: one that he was struck by a train and the other that he was killed and laid on the bank of the stream. There is an abrasion on the head and the face is black around the eyes. There is no evidence of drowning. The body was not there more than a day. A letter was found in a pocket from his mother saying, "Hope you will soon be back at Gettysburg, where I can see you"

FACTS EVERYBODY OUGHT TO KNOW.

By A. W. McAllister, State Fuel Administrator.

The scape-goat is one of the most ancient of institutions, for frail human nature can't get along without him. When America goes over the top shoulder to shoulder with allied civilization and the Huns turn their backs on the western front Old Man Hindenburg will be the scape-goat upon which they will ride into Berlin and they will dig him in the ribs all the harder for the victories that he failed to continue to win. The public had to have somebody upon whom to vent its displeasure at this enforced industrial holiday that we are having, and Mr. Garfield was the victim.

How many people have stopped to inquire who Mr. Garfield is or what he has done? About all that the public knows about him is that he is a college president. There have been others. Before he was a college president he was a personal friend of Woodrow Wilson, and a few years ago he was an attorney for large coal interests, and a little later was at the head of a concern which operated in the coal industry on a very large scale. Mr. Wilson needed for the position of United States fuel administrator a man who knew the law of the coal industry, a man who had had broad practical experience in that business, a man who was no longer interested in the coal industry a man who had nothing to do with politics and above everything he needed a man and he selected his personal friend, Mr. Garfield because he possessed all of these qualifications.

Now let us answer the question, "What has Mr. Garfield done?" The things that he has not done that have been charged up to him would fill a volume. Early in the year 1917 somebody said that coal was going to be cheaper and advised the public not to make contracts as usual but wait. This had to be charged up to somebody so it was charged up to Mr. Garfield. The fact is that it was not until late in the summer, at a time subsequently all the coal contracts are usually placed that the federal fuel administration was created and Mr. Garfield asked to take charge of it. This is one of the things that he did not do.

There are two things that he did do that every American should remember. He stabilized the price of coal. If the price of coal had not been fixed every who has eyes to see and ears to hear knows that the price of coal today, a necessity of life which is short and which nobody can get as much of as they want, would be any price which anybody who has the coal might choose to charge. Consider where the price of sugar has gone with the price fixed and consider where it would have gone if it hadn't been fixed, and then you can form some idea as to where the price of coal would have gone if it hadn't been fixed. An advance in the price of coal of \$1 a ton means a tax of \$1,500,000 upon the people of North Carolina. Suppose the price of coal had been left to itself and had advanced \$10 a ton, which is not only probable but certain, that would have represented a tax upon the consumers of North Carolina of \$15,000,000 in one year.

What is the other great thing that Mr. Garfield has done? After the price of coal had been fixed trouble broke loose in the coal fields all over the country. Most of them shut down on one pretext or another. In a very short time Mr. Garfield brought order out of all this chaos; the mines were operating again to their fullest capacity; the miners of the entire country went to work and stayed at work and the whole coal business and all the labor and capital that is engaged in it are working today, and on a basis upon which they will continue to work without interruption throughout the war. This has been the great achievement of Mr. Garfield's administration. He stabilized the price of coal; he

put labor and capital to work on coal and has kept them at work. The only thing that he has not done is that he hasn't furnished the transportation. That wasn't his job and he couldn't have done it if it had been. With the increased production and traffic of the country during the past year in preparation for war no human agency could have done it. Mr. Garfield and the men who are working under him in the various states were drafted into service by President Wilson and they are furnishing their own rations.

This is in brief Mr. Garfield's record and yet when he, in consultation with the President and secretary of war and the secretary of the navy, finds it necessary to resort to a war measure, everything he had done is forgotten in the moment of resulting inconvenience and public discomfort. The morning after his order was issued everybody was listening with breathless interest to what ignorant senators were having to say about it and to what Wall street was having to say about it and giving no heed to what this man himself said about the reasons which influenced his unheralded fuel order.

Lost amid scarey headlines in inconspicuous type and position the press gave to the country Mr. Garfield's statement. Let those who did not read it when it appeared ponder it now.

"The most urgent thing to be done is to send to the American forces abroad and to the allies the food and war supplies which they vitally need. War munitions food, manufactured articles of every description lying in Atlantic ports in tens of thousands of tons, where literally hundreds of ships, loaded with war goods for our men and the allies, cannot take the seas because their bunkers are empty of coal.

"It is worse than useless to bend our energies to more manufacturing when what we have already manufactured lies at tidewater, congesting terminal facilities, jamming the railroads and side tracks for long distances back into the country.

"On top of these difficulties has come one of the most terribly severe winters we have known in years."

"The wheels were choked and stopped; zero weather and snowbound trains; terminals congested; harbors with shipping frozen in; rivers and canals impassable—it was useless to continue manufacture and pile confusion on top of confusion."

"A clear line from the manufacturing establishments to the seaboard and beyond; that was the imperative need. It was like soldiers marching to the front.

"There is and always has been plenty of fuel, but it cannot be moved to those places where it is so badly needed while railroad lines and terminals are choked. Throughout the coal fields scores, even hundred, of mines are lying idle because of railroad inability to supply the cars to carry away their product. Coal mines cannot operate without cars. Cars cannot be supplied while the railroads are crippled by the present freight congestion, which keeps idle cars lying useless in the freight yards."

"This is war! Whatever the cost, we must pay so that in the face of the enemy there can never be the reproach that we held back from doing our full share. Those ships laden with our supplies of food for men and food for guns must have coal and put to sea."

This statement of Mr. Garfield is obliged to appeal to the reason and to the sense of fairness of every unbiased mind that considers it. My observation is that the average man, if let alone and allowed to reach his own conclusions, will usually hit it about right, and I have a growing confidence that after all is said and done the people of North Carolina are going to settle down to the conviction that Mr. Garfield knew what he was doing and that they are going to give him their fullest whole-hearted co-operation. I am also sure that those manufactur-

ers who have to close five days will do it cheerfully when they realize that many of the coal operators are unable to operate their mines more than five days a week until the traffic congestion is relieved which the manufacturers of the country have been asked to help relieve by their co-operation in carrying out Dr. Garfield's fuel order.

Bickett Appeals for 'The Atlantic People.'

Governor Bickett today urges all North Carolina people to come to the rescue of the Atlantic victims of the recent cyclone which destroyed much property and left many without their next day's bread. Governor Bickett says:

"To the people of North Carolina: "Citizens of the town of Atlantic, N. C. inform me that their community is in sore distress. A cyclone swept the town on January 15 totally wrecking one-fifth of all the buildings and damaging many others. In an appeal to me the local relief committee says:

"The boats which are our only means of a livelihood are wrecked upon the shores of the sea; one man dead and others injured. This awful storm came just after a terrible blizzard of a month's duration during which time our people were cut off from their only means of livelihood. Many of our people had exhausted their supplies and some of them were without bread. Now that the boats and houses are wrecked the people are without means of making a living until these are repaired."

"I deeply sympathize with the people of Atlantic and regret that there is no provision in law by which the public funds can be expended for their relief without a special act of the legislature. I therefore earnestly appeal to the people of the state to come to the rescue of their neighbors who are in distress at Atlantic. Let me urge you to send donations in money or supplies quickly as the need for immediate relief is most imperative. Checks should be mailed to J. R. Morris, treasurer of relief committee, Atlantic, N. C.

It's a Lie.

The Philadelphia North American in a recent issue displays the warlies set afloat of late by pro-German treachery in the North and East. Here is the editorial listing the lies and treating each of them with a drop of prussic acid:

"Herbert Hoover, Federal Food-Administrator, gets a salary of \$18,000 and lives in luxury. It is a lie. He gives his services to the people without salary and lives simply.

"At Camp Dix or Camp Meade quarters of beef are thrown away or burned. It is a lie.

"Tons of vegetables, principally potatoes are rotting through carelessness of soldiers. It is a lie.

"Whole car-loads of food are decaying on the railroad tracks in this city because the commission men want to get high prices. It is a lie.

"The Government intends to seize all of the canned goods that the patriotic women put up during the summer. It is a lie.

"French army officers have been shot for selling American wheat to Germany. It is a lie.

"Canada is holding its wheat so that it can demand a high price when the American crop is exhausted. It is a lie.

Good As New.

During his vacation a lawyer met an old friend in the village and their conversation drifted to a discussion of the natives. A young farmer came under their view.

"He's a fine looking young fellow," said the lawyer.

"Y-e-e-s," assented his friend.

"Well anyway he has a mighty good head."

"It ought to be good," was the reply. "That man's head is brand new—he's never used it any."—Minneapolis Tribune.