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Lagging Defense

While the labor situation in this country may prove serious in the future, it has been inflated contrary to the real facts, and compared with other delays the labor strike is no worse than industrial profiteering. The labor strike has been aired on the front page and over the air, but the industrial profiteer is now breaking out in small print on the inside pages.

Labor should not delay the defense program, and it is generally admitted by those who are in a position to know that labor is ready and willing to do its part. That there will be racketeering in the labor ranks is to be expected in a democracy, but when a few thousand men decide to strike there is no rightful cause for the public to condemn labor as handled by the millions of other workers who, if the real facts are known, are working at a disadvantage when compared with the advantages of the industrialist.

The laborer has no one to turn to, and his action is in the open. The producer or manufacturer is in a sheltered position and his right to argue is not questioned and his refusal to accept a contract is never publicized in the press.

One reason there are strikes today is because it is about the first time in years that many workers have had an opportunity to strike, and just as many manufacturers have done and are doing, labor is trying to take advantage of its first opportunity to better itself.

There has been no all-out movement for all-out defense. It was Mr. Ford who said just a short time ago that he did not care who won the war. If that declaration had come from the ranks of labor, there would have been a loud denunciation of all laboring men. Radicol elements in labor may openly defy the law, but it can be no more brazen in their acts as Mr. Henry Ford has been and is now doing to defy the supreme law of the land.

A conscientious review of the real facts will prove that our defense is lagging as a result of stubborn policies advanced by industry as well as by labor and the strike. There are 200,000 firms available and ready to handle defense contracts. But 90 per cent of the contracts have been placed in the hands of 600 contractors, and 114 of the 600 got 95 per cent of all contracts over $100,000, or a total of $6,668,800,000. As a result of the contract bottleneck, at least half of the machine tools in this country are either idle or are in use less than eight hours a day. The billions are being poured into big centers, while the rest of the nation, especially the agricultural sections, are facing low prices for their products and increased prices for the things they need and must buy.

Industry, before it turned the first tap, had to be assured that its capital investment must be protected, the government agreeing to reimburse them for plant expansion. What has labor been promised? Working men, called upon today to sacrifice for defense while the contractor gets cost plus, will likely be placed squarely in the bread line at the end of the war. Surely, labor has a lot to lose if Hitler wins, and just as surely the everyone of us has a lot to lose. And what are we doing? We are running here and there looking for the high dollar, placing defense secondary except in our hopes and in our expressed criticism.

If the government would eliminate the strike then it must make the laborer and his family secure along with industry.

Mr. Warren's History

It was a painful process and surely a really embarrassing one, but as a result, North Carolina fifth graders have something in the way of a history book now. Written by Mr. Jule Warren, ably corrected by Miss Nell Battle Lewis, and rammed down the throats of innocent lads and lassies in the fifth grade, "North Carolina Yesterday and Today" offers instruction in more than one subject. It is fairly apparent that the history of the book today smacks of politics, and clearly demonstrates the marketing of a glossy product after a dime store fashion.

The author apparently got his dates mixed up more than once, and offers nothing better than a line or two from the old "North Carolina Reader" to substantiate the claim that Raleigh's colonists came up the Roanoke as far as Williamston in search of gold.

Henry Grady's Farmers' Sentence

Every year before he plants an acre of so-called "money crops" every Southern farmer ought to read Henry Grady's immortal paragraph on live-at-home farming. Consequently we are giving it once again, and hope many will not only read it but memorize it:

"When every farmer in the South shall eat bread from his own fields and meat from his own pastures and, disturbed by no creditor and enslaved by no debt, shall sit among his teeming gardens and orchards and vineyards and dairies and barnyards, pitching his crops in his own wisdom and growing them in independence, making cotton his clean surplus, and selling it in his own time and in his chosen market and not at a master's bidding—getting his pay in cash and not in a receipted mortgage that discharges his debt, but does not restore his freedom—then shall be breaking the fullness of our day."—The Progressive Farmer.

A Changing Agricultural Policy?

Secretary Wickard made a courageous address in Indiana the other day. He told the folks at Purdue University that Southern farmers must be encouraged "to raise the things they need for their own tables," even if "no one can guarantee that a small portion of such home production might not get into the so-called commercial market some time, some place, temporarily."

However, he went even further than that. "The next thing to be done," he said, "is to help them find the opportunity to receive enough cash income from some source to maintain a decent way of living." He questioned the right of the Northern farmer to hog the market for such products as hogs, soybeans, dairy products, etc., just because they anteceded the South in developing them commercially.

Some folks profess to see in Wickard's Purdue speech and in the new cotton-stamps-for-cotton-growers program a fundamental shift in the agricultural policy of the nation. The accent, they insist, is now to be placed on increasing aid to small, under-privileged farmers, on the theory that previous farm programs have put the larger, more commercial farmers on their feet and that they are now able to shift for themselves. More emphasis is to be placed on home living, maintenance of people on the land, and less on farm prices. "The first thing we must realize," says Secretary Wickard, "is that we can't reduce the number of people who live on cotton farms, or wheat farms, or tobacco farms, in the same proportion that we reduce the acreages of these commodities."—The Progressive Farmer.

Willkie, defeated candidate for the Presidency, finally got into the White House for a short time.

"HOUNDS OF SPRING"

DR. V. H. MEWBORN
OP-TOM-E-TRIST
Please Note Date Changes

Robersonville office, Scott's Jewelry Store, Tuesday, April 15th.

Williamston office, Peele's Jewelry Store, every Wed., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Plymouth office, Womble Drug Store, Every Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Eyes Examined—Glasses Fitted
Tarboro Every Saturday.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

North Carolina. Martin County.

Having this day qualified as the administrator of the estate of Lucy C. Perry, deceased, and the estate of Mary G. Perry, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against either of said estates to present them to the undersigned within one year from the completion of this publication of notice or same will be pleaded as a bar to any recovery. All persons indebted to either of said estates will please make immediate settlement.

This 27th day of Feb., 1941.

R. L. PERRY,
Administrator of the estate of Lucy C. Perry and administrator of the estate of Mary G. Perry.
m4-6t

Carolina .. Bird - Lore

The Red-Headed Woodpecker

A flashing ball of red, white and black swings in a broad dip from the white oak to the hickory, and remains motionless. A similar bright figure hitches into view from the far side of the trunk. Loud, throaty chatters, and the two are off through the grove, shuttling gracefully from limb to limb and playing in easy mastery of the air.

What are they? Red-headed woodpeckers, lending tropical brightness and welcome animation to the otherwise drab winter landscape. No bird is more beautiful, none more beneficial, none more willing to dwell in city parks and streets for all to see. Small groves of oaks and other shade trees, providing acorns, nuts, grubs and insects are all that are necessary to assure the company of this friendly bird.

Now the pair is back before us. Since the sexes are alike, it cannot be known whether it was the male or the female that netered that hole in the dead limb of the oak. The hole is only a roosting place now, but in the spring it will contain several pure white eggs. Both parents will help keep the eggs warm, and both will work tirelessly to feed the young with all kinds of insects gleaned from ground, tree and air.

The bright colors, lively antics, and not unmusical chatter of this chisel-beaked protector of trees are to be seen throughout the state at all times of the year.

Description: A black bird with head and neck red; underparts, secondaries, and rump white. Size about that of a robin.—N. C. Bird Club.

Names Best Fertilizer For Use In A Home Garden

The fertilizer used by many home gardeners, says H. R. Niswonger, State College Extension horticulturist, is a commercial mixture of a 5-7-5 analysis. The amount required per 100 feet of row is 1 1-2 pounds where the rows are 12 inches apart, 3 pounds where the rows are 18 inches apart, 4 1-2 pounds where the rows are 24 inches apart, and seven pounds where the rows are 36 inches apart. One pound of a 5-7-5 fertilizer will fill a one pint measure.

Hilton Everett, of Hamilton, spent the week-end in Springfield, S. C.

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EVERY FRIDAY

AT OAK CITY ..... 9 to 11 a. m.
AT HAMILTON ..... 11:30 a. m. to 12 m.
AT GOLD POINT ..... 1 to 2 p. m.

EVERY SATURDAY

AT WILLIAMSTON ..... 9 to 11 a. m.
AT EVERETTS ..... 11:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m.
AT ROBERSONVILLE ..... 1 to 3 p. m.

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AnnaMyersPureFoods,Inc.
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Second, if the size of your monthly payment is an important item to you, you may easily arrange the *number* of payments so that the *amount of each payment* fits your pocketbook. No wonder former lowest-priced car owners are saying: "Monthly payments on my Pontiac are so little more I hardly notice the difference!"

What's more, many owners will tell you that in the long run, you actually *pay* no more for a Pontiac—you simply *invest* a little more, because you will eventually get those few extra dollars back again in a higher allowance at trade-in time! See your Pontiac dealer today!

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