

RUHR PROBLEM FROM WORKERS' VIEWPOINT

The Invasion Was Opposed By French Federated Trade Unions, Says Writer.

By ETHEL M. SMITH
Legislative Secretary, National Women's Trade Union League

If the federated trade unions of France could have had their way, French soldiers would never have marched into the Ruhr, the German reparations would be reduced to a figure that Germany could pay, the Versailles treaty would be re-written on reasonable terms, and all differences between the nations would be submitted to the League of Nations for arbitration.

That is the policy of the French Confederation of Labor, as stated to me in Paris by its president, Leon Jouhaux, in September, and it is the statement of the confederation as reiterated in an appeal to the recent fruitless conference in Paris—an appeal against what French workmen themselves characterize as "the policy of brutality and adventure" of the French government.

Knowing this fact, it is a safe guess that the labor movement of France, as well as the labor movement of Germany, which has cabled its appeal to the American Congress, would welcome mediation by the United States government in the present critical situation in the Ruhr.

Trade Unions Agreed

All the trade unions of Europe, in fact, are agreed on the outstanding international issues. Frenchmen, Englishmen, Belgians, Dutch, Germans, Italians, Czechoslovaks, Austrians—whatever their animosities during the war, the working people of these countries as represented by their trade unions want to give Germany a chance to regain her economic feet. They want no reprisals—they want peace and peaceful employment.

The unity of sentiment in the midst of the quarrels of the governments of Europe seemed incredible to me when I first heard it. But I went from one country to another throughout the summer, talking with the heads of trade unions in each capital. One and all they told me the same thing—just as I have stated it here.

Count Into Millions

I had a long talk with Herr Grassmann, acting president of the German Federation of Trade Unions, who is one of the signers of the appeal to the American Congress, and with Herr Kholl, the general secretary. Their organization is the largest of the four that have signed the appeal to America, numbering about eight million members organized in local and national unions almost exactly as the American Federation of Labor is organized—printers, carpenters, miners, railroad men, textile workers, metal workers, and so on.

The Federation of Clerical Employees is another large organization of the non-sectarian unions, and with the

Are Bustles Coming Back? Hoop Skirts Too? Indications Are All Pointing That Way



On our left: The tight bodice. This gown's of comparatively recent date—1907. It's worn by Louise Huff in "Marry the Heir." On our right: The bustle. Margaret Lawrence wears this costume in "Secrets." It's of the period of 1858. In the center: The hoop skirt. In 1867 it was strictly in style.

By MARIAN HALE

Are we due for revival of the hoop skirt?

And the bustle? Is the tight bodice coming back? Not many people now living can remember so far in the past as hoops.

The bustle, however, is recalled by merely rather elderly folk. The tight bodice is within the recollection of those hardly yet middle aged.

Indications are that we are going to have the tight bodice with us again. The bustle is something more than a possibility. The hoop skirt, perhaps.

Looks Like It

At a recent ball in New York a fashionable society girl appeared in a gown that reproduced the style of 1870 in all its details.

A smart designer is bringing out taffeta frocks with back trimming that strongly suggests the bustle.

As to tight bodies, fashion authorities won't commit themselves, so I called on Mrs. M. L. Thompson, who conducts a school for corset fitters, and asked her if stiff corsets are coming into style again.

"Stiff ones, no," she said, "but corsets, yes indeed.

"Women positively are going back to corsets, especially as soon as they realize what going without them is doing to their figures.

"A good figure is the basis of every costume. Properly corseted in the new light materials, sparsely boned, women can wear whatever gowns they choose. They can return to basques or to the crinolines of former days without discomfort, because the modern corset gives slenderness without distorting the form.

Not a Statue

"A woman is not a marble statue. The most perfect figures have bumps and imperfections which only a corset can conceal.

"What's more, costume plays are all the rage on Broadway just now. They show women in every type of gown, from 1300 A. D. to the present day, so we actually can see how women have looked through the ages, and draw our own conclusions. Judging from the exclamations of admiration and the applause which greet the burlesqued, crinolined costumes of the Victorian period there's a considerable desire on women's part to return to them.

"Styles," remarked Mrs. Thompson, "travel in cycles, you know.

"When the psychological time for the reappearance, say, of bustles comes, there'll be no way of preventing them. But whether or not that time's come, I can't tell—who can!

Who, indeed? But—be prepared!

TRADE RECORD

OUR CORN EXPORTS MAKE NEW HIGH RECORD.

Exports of corn from the United States in the calendar year 1922 made a new high record when considered by the number of dollars which they brought to the American farmer. The Trade Record of the National City Bank of New York has issued figures showing that for the first time in the history of our exports, the value of the corn exported crossed the hundred million dollar line.

For the year ending with December, 1922, the value was \$115,997,000 against a former high record of \$92,787,000 in the calendar year 1921. If we add to this the \$7,000,000 worth of corn meal and other foodstuffs prepared from corn the \$8,000,000 worth of corn starch, the \$6,000,000 worth of corn syrup sometimes designated as "glucose," the half billion dollars worth of corn oil and cake, the 1922 exports of the products of our corn fields would total nearly \$150,000,000. The value of American corn exported during the last decade aggregates considerably more than a half billion dollars, an average of about \$50,000,000 a year, while the 1922 total, as already indicated, exceeds \$100,000,000, and if we add the corn "by-products" the total will approximate \$150,000,000.

This increase of \$23,000,000 in the value of our corn exports in the calendar year 1922, when compared with the former high record year, occurred chiefly in movements to Europe. To Germany alone the exports of last year were nearly \$23,000,000 in value against a little more than \$10,000,000 in the preceding year; to the United Kingdom \$21,000,000, against \$12,000,000 in the preceding year; to Netherlands nearly \$14,000,000 against nearly \$14,000,000 in 1921; to France nearly \$3,000,000, against only a half million in 1921; while Belgium, Italy, Spain, Norway, European Russia and the Ukraine also showed increases in the value of their takings of this big American product.

But whether or not that time's come, I can't tell—who can!

Who, indeed? But—be prepared!

Beset On Every Hand

And they are a political unit! That is the most important thing about them just now—they are the republic can forces of Germany, the bulwark of the German democracy. They are the people who overthrew the kaiser. It was their revolution—and a bloodless one, let it be remembered to their credit. But ever since, they have been beset by enemies of the republic on either hand—the monarchists on the right, the communists on their left, these two extremes as usual playing blindly or unscrupulously into each other's hands. Had the trade unions not buttressed the Center the German republic would have given way to anarchy months ago.

That is the great reason why the message to the American Congress is so important. It is the voice of democratic Germany—the Germany that should not only be allowed but helped to survive.

Columbus County Cuts Rate On Typhoid Fever

(Special to The Star)

WHITEVILLE, March 3.—Dr. Floyd Johnson, county health officer of Columbus county, announces that there have been only 15 cases of typhoid fever in the county during the past year, and two deaths; a result due in great part to the thorough methods adopted by the county board, which plans still more thorough work for this year.

The second week of civil court finds the docket reasonably clear, which is not always the case.

A conference was held Monday between the building committee of the new school building, the architect, Mr. Boney, the superintendent, Mr. Moak, and Mr. Doster, who is installing the heating plant. Final details relating to the building were settled, and it seems sure that within the next two weeks the building will be ready for occupancy. Some essential material having gone astray at the last moment has been the cause of the final delay.

Judge Walter Neal To Succeed Pearsall

RALEIGH, March 3.—Judge Walter H. Neal, of Laurinburg, has been appointed by Governor Cameron Morris to succeed Colonel P. M. Pearsall, of New Bern, deceased, as chairman of the state board of elections. Judge Neal is engaged at present as counsel for Dr. L. B. McBrayer, superintendent of the state sanitarium for the treatment of tuberculosis, in the legislative committee investigation of the management of that institution.

Judge Neal served as judge of the superior court some years ago by appointment of the governor.

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SUBURBAN SCHEDULE Tide Water Power Co.

In Effect Sunday, October 15, 1922

EASTBOUND		WESTBOUND	
Leave Wilmington for Wrightsville.	Leave Wilmington for Beach	Leave Beach for Wilmington	Leave Wrightsville for Wilmington
A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.
7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00
8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00
10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00
11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00
12:00 P. M.	12:00 P. M.	12:00 P. M.	12:00 P. M.
1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00
2:00	2:00	2:00	2:00
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8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00
10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00
11:00	11:00	11:00	11:00

*Transfer car connects with the train at Wrightsville on special request to Transportation Office.

†Daily except Sunday.

‡Sundays only.

§This car goes only as far as Station No. 1.

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